

**Trustees Annual Report and Annual Finance Report**  
**The Parochial Church Council of**  
**St Leonard's, Denton and St Mary's, Tarring Neville**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

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St Leonard's Church, Heighton Road, Denton, Newhaven

St Mary's Church, Tarring Neville, Newhaven

**Independent Examiner:** Christopher J Roberts, 26 Beresford Road, Mount Pleasant, Newhaven, BN9 0LY

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank UK PLC, Calverley Road Branch, Tunbridge Wells

**Parochial Church Council of  
St Leonard's, Denton  
And  
St Mary's, Tarring Neville  
Trustees Annual Report for 2019**

**Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a charity, but is exempt from registration with the Charity Commission within the meaning of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council.

**Ex-officio Member**

Incumbent	The Rev Louis Wilson	Chairperson
Curate	Jez Lowries	

**Elected Members**

Paul Giles	Treasurer
Ann Anderson	Secretary
Martin Deva	Churchwarden
Nelly Paine de Kraker	Churchwarden until April 2019
Maria Greco	Churchwarden from April 2019
Joan Parish	Deanery Synod
Ann Saunders	
Derek Bush	
Jeff Lee	Left November 2019
Nicky Still	
Rachel Smith	
Ruth Reynolds	Left April 2019
Tricia Lockyer	
Katy Hildersley	Joined April 2019
David Reynolds	Joined April 2019

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of two ex-officio members, the Rev. Louis Wilson and our current curate the Rev. Jez Lowries, the two Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod and nine members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members of the church are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we endeavour to maintain a balance of skills, experience, and a balance to reflect the wide age difference in the Church membership wherever possible.

### **Aims and Purposes as a charity**

We are an Anglican evangelical church which exists to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In particular, this means serving the needs of all those who live in this Parish and beyond through our services, events, clubs, outreach and pastoral support. Specifically and most importantly we exist to make mature disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, in increasing numbers from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay. In relation to the wider community, the church is increasingly viewed as a place where outsiders are welcome, where help is provided and questions of life will be answered.

### **What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For 2019 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Teaching, baptising and discipling new and existing believers.
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and Bible teaching, music and sacrament.
- Offering regular courses and study in small group situations.
- Provision of pastoral care and assistance for people living in the parish and beyond.
- Giving grants to missionary organisations.
- Provision of regular and seasonal RE lessons to Denton CP School.
- Running various other clubs and activities for adults, babies, children and young people.
- Reaching out to the wider community through various activities, events and in particular the Denton Community Challenge.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of community life.

- **What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives**

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. Sermons continue to be recorded most weeks and made available on the church website.

- Our weekly attendance at our main service stands at around 70 to 80 people of all ages on an average Sunday. This attendance swells considerably at Christmas, Easter and other festivals such as Harvest, Remembrance and Mothering Sunday. We continue to welcome all the uniformed organisations for regular parade services, as well as Denton School Choir at Remembrance and Christmas. We continue to conduct regular funerals and weddings and use these opportunities for appropriate pastoral work and ministry. In November 2019, we hosted a deanery Confirmation Service (our third in five years) at which 6 members of Denton Church of varying ages were confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes, Richard Jackson. Preparation included an evening course attended by the candidates.
- Our links continued with Denton School where the Rector is frequently involved as a Community Governor. We continue to work closely with the school RE Coordinator to provide RE lessons across the school. A regular programme of class visits to the church for RE lessons delivered by church members has continued particularly in the run up to Christmas and Easter. In February 2019, we ran our fifth Bible Holiday Club (Epic Explorers) using the hall and classrooms of Denton School. As part of our mission to the local community and because of the restricted flexibility and space of our church building, we then experimented with holding our main Sunday service in the school hall for a continuous period in March and then once a month through most of 2019.
- We continue to run a really thriving after school club in the church hall for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 (Frogs). The young teenagers group (Sparks) continued until summer 2019 but for various reasons then stopped and may restart in the future. It was partly replaced by a new teenage Bible study group run by Jez and Katy Lowries. Otherwise, our clubs and groups are run by a mixture of lay members and clergy from Denton Church at very low cost to parents or carers and are open to absolutely anyone.
- During the year, various new initiatives were started including Bumps and Babies, a weekly term time group meeting in the church hall for 0-1 year olds plus their carers and expectant mums. This has been hugely successful so very many thanks to the

team of church volunteers who started and continue to run it. Three new home groups started which meet regularly in the evening for Bible study, prayer and encouragement. In autumn 2019, following training and advice provided by evangelist Martin Povey, a team of six regulars began a programme of door to door evangelism through the parish to invite people to church and engage in conversations about Jesus. Finally, David and Ruth Reynolds faithfully organised Friday evening prayer in the church for one hour every week through 2019. This has paved the way for a greater focus on our church prayer life as we enter 2020.

- A number of the congregation again attended the Word Alive Bible event in North Wales, Bible by the Beach in Eastbourne and the Sussex Gospel Partnership annual conference. Denton Church continues to play an active part in this partnership.
- The daytime Bible study group *Uncover* has continued and is well attended. It is open to anyone, as is St Leonard's Café which continues to run most Wednesday mornings providing coffee, cake and a place to chat. The church runs Lunch Club eight times a year, catering mainly for the older generation and meets in the hall.
- With others in the community, we again ran the Denton Community Challenge, a very large fun day for families which celebrates local clubs and societies active in our area. We deliberately price the activities as cheaply as possible to make it as accessible as we can. The event is run in partnership with Denton Primary School and local charity James Daniels Memorial Fund.
- Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael's, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth For Christ. This is a registered charity which has allowed them to apply for grants and gain from the experience of the national organisation. The Rector is a trustee of Newhaven YFC. The work consists mainly of: an open youth club at Shakespeare Hall, Newhaven which regularly attracts around 30 young people each week; a lunchtime club at Seahaven Academy; and Sunday evening youth work at St Michaels. In addition, Sara leads Sunday Club for our older young people at Denton once a month and assists with the running of Holiday Club each February.

### **Church Attendance and Review of PCC**

The full PCC held 6 meetings during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. These meetings were well attended by most members. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in April 2019. We had a change of format this year and the meeting took place within the Sunday Service, as a result was attended by 66 regular Church members. The main changes to the PCC in 2019 were that Maria Greco took over from Nelly Paine de Kraker as Churchwarden, Ruth stepped down from the PCC but took over as DBS/SQP representative,

and Jeff Lee resigned. New PCC members who joined in April 2019 were David Reynolds and Katy Hildersley.

Also during 2019 the Church electoral roll was rewritten. As a result we had 95 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 27 of whom do not live in the parish.

### **DBS checks**

During 2019, nine members of our church family have been checked and received new DBS clearances, along with the completion of two update checks. Details can be provided on request.

A significant number of people have attended foundation level safeguarding training this year with most of these people either in roles with children clubs or serving on the PCC being up to date. Higher level C2 training has been completed or is booked as appropriate.

No safeguarding issues have been reported during the past year.

### **Simple Quality Protects**

Simple Quality Protects is an audit of all our Safeguarding Procedures instigated by the diocese. Following our first SQP audit in November, Denton church has now been awarded SQP Level One. The certificate is displayed in the church porch. Sincere thanks to all involved in compiling the evidence for the audit, in particular Vicky Blann and Rosemary Cutbush, as well as our current safeguarding officer Ruth Reynolds.

### **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met three times during 2019. One of the PCC elected members for Denton; Nelly Paine de Kraker sadly died during the year and was not replaced. The three year term of this Deanery Synod comes to an end in summer 2020 and it is planned that Denton's vacant spaces will be filled at this year's APCM.

### **Churchwarden's report, Denton 2019**

#### **Fabric of St Leonard's Church Denton**

February 2019 there was Fire safety checks carried out. There is a Fire/risk assessment folder placed in vestry.

March 2019: We purchased a new mower to assist with both St Leonards and St Mary's.

April 2019: Repairs were carried out on the concrete pathway leading from the Church down to the Church Hall.

## **Church Hall Denton**

July 2019: New boiler and thermostat purchased and fitted

Dec 2019: Valves boiler /hot water dispenser/blue water level double checked at request from South East Water

## **Fabric of St Mary's Church Tarring Neville**

There were several funeral, internment and wedding services held during the course of the year. A Carols by candlelight service was held in December and was very well attended, as usual.

South Downs National Park volunteers have helped to clear the land behind the church in preparation for establishing a wildflower meadow in 2020.