

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 31st December 2021

Contents

	Page
Trustees Annual Report	1-7; F1
Statement of financial activities (receipts and payments)	F2-F3
Balance sheet (Assets and Liabilities statement)	F4
Notes to the Financial Report	F5-F6
Report of the independent examiner	

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

St Mary's Church, Tarring Neville, Newhaven

Independent Examiner: Christopher J Roberts, Abbots Lodge, Hawth Hill, Seaford BN25 2RD

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 2021

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 Members

Incumbent	The Rev Louis Wilson	Chairperson
Curate	Jez Lowries	

Elected Members

Paul Giles	Treasurer
Ann Anderson	Secretary
Maria Greco	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod
Nicky Still	Churchwarden
Joan Parish	Deanery Synod
Katy Lowries	Deanery Synod
Rachel Smith	Deputy DBS/SQP
Tricia Lockyer	
Katy Hildersley	
David Reynolds	
Sue McKay	

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 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 2021 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.
- 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.

- 2021 was another challenging year. As a result of the Covid-19 resurgence, another national lockdown began with church services suspended until 28 March. During that time, a video service was recorded and accessed each Sunday morning via the church website. This time around, the services included a children's slot based on the same Bible passage as the adult sermon, as well as a Zoom coffee time after the service. Midweek Bible study groups also resumed on Zoom. In late March, we returned to two in-person Sunday services and finally resumed one reunited service on 22 August.
- Soon after this latest lockdown began, two members of church began to prepare meals for anyone who might need one. The meals were funded by generous donations and between February and July, some 130 meals were delivered. At Easter, we organised a giant Easter egg hunt across the parish involving the windows of 52 houses and an invitation to come to the churchyard on Easter Saturday for prizes, Easter treats etc. The event was very well supported and attended.
- Frogs (the afterschool club for children in school years 4, 5 and 6), and Bumps and Babies were both able to resume in May. In September, we started a brand new group for toddlers and their carers called Little Fishes meeting weekly in the hall during term time. This was effectively an alternative to Junior Jivers which had started just before the first lockdown. In October, it was possible to restart Sparks, the youth group for secondary school age children which had stopped in 2019. This meant that by the close of 2021, we had four groups for children and young people meeting regularly, almost entirely run by committed teams of volunteers. In December, it was possible to resume the provision of visits from Denton School to the church for RE lessons.
- After its cancellation in 2020, a slightly modified but highly successful version of Denton Community (DCC) took place in July. DCC is 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.

- In the autumn, we ran an adapted version of the Church of England Living in Love and Faith course (LLF) which was well attended. A group was also formed to begin work on a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for Denton. The MAP was submitted to the diocese by the end of November as required. We were able to recommence an in person church prayer meeting in October and this has taken place monthly since then. At Christmas, we were able to run most of our usual programme, with in addition, an outdoor event (Carols in the Park at Denton Community Centre) and a Parish-wide Christmas trail leading up to the Christmas Eve Crib Service.
- Denton Church continues to play an active part in the Sussex Gospel Partnership. We again hosted the SGP Saturday Morning Bible Training Course at Denton through the year partly on Zoom and partly in person in the hall. As usual, a good number of the church family attended the SGP conference at Burgess Hill in November.
- Despite the difficulties of the last two years, as a church we are in remarkably good heart. Far from shrinking, it feels that we have grown out of the pandemic. Certainly, over the last year we have been blessed with growth as many new people have arrived in Denton Church.
- Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael's, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth For Christ. Face to face youth work was able to restart during 2021 and various groups are now running across Newhaven including a lunchtime club at the secondary school Seahaven Academy. Sara continues to lead a Sunday School group once a month for some of our young people at Denton.

Church Attendance and Review of PCC

The PCC held 6 meetings during the period 01st January – 31st December 2021. Due to Covid restrictions in place for some of the year, 3 of these meetings were held online, 3 were held in the Church Hall. A couple of these meetings saw attendance at two thirds due to Covid; the other 4 were almost full attendance. We were able to hold the APCM in person in April 2021 so as in previous years it took place during the normal Morning Praise service, and was attended by 54 regular church members who were on the electoral roll. There were 2 members of the PCC who had completed their 3 year term; both chose to be re-elected for a further 3 years – these were Rachel Smith and Tricia Lockyer. There were no other changes to the PCC, and no new members in 2021.

For Church Attendance across the year, we have an average of 23 children/young people aged 17 and under, and 79 adults, with our services throughout December and Christmas attracting a total of 308 people.

During 2021 the Church electoral roll was simply revised, as it is not due to be rewritten until 2025. As a result we had 88 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 26 of whom do not live in the parish.

DBS and Safeguarding

Four new DBS certificates have been issued for people working in roles with children.

DBS certificates are issued for members involved in roles with both children and vulnerable adults. These have previously been renewed every five years but this will now move to a three yearly cycle as per recommendation from the Church House Safeguarding team. This will bring the Church of England into line with Charity Commission guidance.

Safeguarding remains of the utmost importance in the life of Denton Parish Church as we seek to care for all those we meet. Safeguarding reports are submitted to each PCC meeting.

The Diocesan Safeguarding training continues with on line training for Basic Awareness and Foundation level and the Leadership level continues as virtual teaching sessions with some pre and post course work.

The Parish has had no safeguarding issues in this last year

Simple Quality Protects

The Parish continues to work to the standards as set out in the Simple Quality Protects audit document.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met at various times during the year in person and on Zoom. The main issues to arise were finance, Mission Action Plans and Living in Love and Faith (MAP and LLF mentioned above). During 2021 our three Deanery Synod representatives were Joan Parish, Maria Greco and Katy Lowries who were all able to take part in the elections to the Church of England General Synod which were in the autumn.

Churchwardens' report 2021

With the gradual withdrawal of COVID restrictions, Denton Church Hall has become busier than in 2020. The hall has returned to use for coffee after services, meetings and other gatherings of our church community, as well as private celebrations.

Fabric of St Leonard's Church, Denton:

In March the church gutters and drains were cleaned, and tiles were replaced on the porch and South roof. In October, one of the vestry walls (which had been untidy for some time) was replastered and the vinyl flooring replaced. The lighting was also improved.

Fabric of St Mary's, Tarring Neville:

The QI report was completed by architect John Bailey of Thomas Ford and Partners.

Towards the end of the year, some of the urgent works itemised in the QI were carried out.

A new electrical installation report is not due until 2026.

No services were held at Tarring in 2021. The churchyard was in use for an occasional burial or interment of ashes, and work continued to establish a wildflower meadow.