

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 2022

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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 2022**

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 until August 2022
Curate	The Rev. Jez Lowries	Left February 2022

Elected Members

Sean Beckett	Treasurer – joined April 2022
Ann Anderson	Secretary/ Chair from August
Maria Greco	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod
Nicky Still	Churchwarden
Joan Parish	Deanery Synod – left April 2022
Katy Lowries	Deanery Synod – left February 2022
Mia Balkham	Deanery Synod–joined April 2022
Stewart Kinning	Deanery Synod–joined April 2022
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 2022 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. For most of the year, sermons were recorded and made available on the church website.

- As part of the Denton Mission Action (MAP) agreed in 2021, our small groups for Bible study and fellowship were reorganised and restarted. All five groups used the same study materials for the early part of the year (Fruitfulness on the Frontline published by LICC).
- With much thankfulness to God for their ministry, we said farewell to our Curate Jez Lowries and his family who moved to Peacehaven in March 2022.
- At Easter, we organised another giant Easter egg hunt across the parish involving the windows of many houses and an invitation to come to the church hall on Good Friday for prizes, Easter treats etc. The event was very well supported and attended.
- In April, a new informal, lay led praise evening was started once a month on a Sunday evening in the church hall.
- Frogs (the club for children in school years 4, 5 and 6), Sparks (for secondary school age children), Bumps and Babies, and Little Fishes continued to meet for most of the year. All groups were almost entirely run by committed teams of volunteers. We were also able to receive visits from Denton School to the church for RE lessons.
- In June, the church was able to help with catering for the Denton Platinum Jubilee celebrations and on Sunday 5 June held an outdoor service at the Recreation Ground to celebrate the Jubilee to which all the community was invited. The following weekend, Denton Community Challenge (DCC) took place. This was the 10th event of this 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.
- 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 which concluded in July. 14 August was Louis Wilson's final Sunday as Rector,

and he and his family left Denton to take up a position in North Essex.

- Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael's, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth For Christ. 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 7 meetings during the period 01st January – 31st December 2022. Six of these were our usual meetings and we held one joint meeting with St Michaels PCC in the autumn to discuss the possibility of a union between the 2 churches. There were no restrictions this year so all meetings were held together in the Church Hall, with almost full attendance at every meeting. The APCM was held in person in April 2022, and as in previous years took place as part of the Morning Praise service. It was attended by 66 people from the electoral roll. There were 3 members of the PCC who stepped down at the APCM last April – Paul Giles stepped down as Treasurer, Joan Parish and Katy Lowries who were also both Deanery Synod reps. We thank them all for their service. There were 3 new members to the PCC who joined at the APCM – Mia Balkham and Stewart Kinning joined as Deanery Synod reps and Sean Beckett joined to take over from Paul as treasurer. We also had 3 members who had completed their 3 year term; they all chose to be re-elected for a further 3 years – these were Katy Hildersley, David Reynolds and Ann Anderson. Ann also agreed to stay on as Secretary, however, following Louis's departure in August 2022; Ann Anderson was elected to be the interim Chair of the meetings so Mia kindly agreed to be the interim Secretary during the period of interregnum.

For Church Attendance across the year, we have an average of 10 children/young people aged 17 and under, and 55 adults, with our Christmas services attracting a total of 117 people. Considering from August onwards the church was in vacancy, it has been pleasing to still have consistent numbers.

During 2022 the Church electoral roll was simply revised, as it is not due to be rewritten until 2025. We have lost 12 names from the roll for various reasons, however have gained 14. As a result we had 90 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 25 of whom do not live in the parish.

DBS and Safeguarding

Two new DBS certificates have been issued for people working in roles with children with update checks have been completed as required.

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. We continue to encourage all those in relevant roles to complete training.

The Parish has had one safeguarding issue in this last year, now fully resolved.

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. The number of lay representatives we can have to represent us at these meetings is determined by the number on our electoral roll, and the term of office is 3 years. The current term of office will end on 30th June 2023. As our electoral roll stands at 90, we can have 3 representatives and during 2022 these were Maria Greco, Joan Parish, and Katy Lowries – Joan and Katy were replaced at the APCM in April 2022 by Mia Balkham and Stewart Kinning. As a new 3 year term starts in 2023, at our APCM in April 2023 we will appoint our representatives for the new term (2023- 2026).

Churchwardens 'report 2022

Following last year's tentative return to normal after the pandemic, Denton Church Hall has become much busier than in 2021. The hall has been used for coffee after services, meetings and other gatherings of our church community, as well as private celebrations, table tennis and uniformed groups sessions. There has been some repairs to internal water pipes in the hall due to leaks, a repair to toilet and repair to electrical socket.

Fabric of St Leonard's Church, Denton:

In November the vestry was fitted with new custom-built floor to ceiling cupboards. In the process everything stored was reorganised and we were able to create more space in the vestry. The path to the Priests House had a new drain cover and repairs to the Path.

Fabric of St Mary's, Tarring Neville:

No worship services were held at Tarring in 2022, although the church was used for the occasional funeral, and the churchyard was in use for burials and interment of ashes. The bell tower was cleared of dead rodents and birds, and a hole in the roof was plugged with new boards to stop birds nesting in the bell tower.

In the churchyard, two headstones that were dangerous were made safe, and following a valiant effort to establish a wildflower meadow, this was deemed no longer viable so the grass was mowed, trimmed and maintained to keep it tidy.