

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 2020

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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 2020**

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 (re-elected)
Ann Anderson	Secretary
Martin Deva	Churchwarden until Oct. 2020
Maria Greco	Churchwarden
Nicky Still	Churchwarden from Oct. 2020
Joan Parish	Deanery Synod
Katy Lowries	Deanery Synod from Oct. 2020
Ann Saunders	Stepped down Oct. 2020
Derek Bush	Stepped down Oct. 2020
Rachel Smith	
Tricia Lockyer	
Katy Hildersley	
David Reynolds	
Sue McKay	Joined Oct. 2020

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 2020 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.

- 2020 was a challenging and unprecedented year. Until March 2020, we continued to run our usual programme of services and events. These included the daytime Bible study group *Uncover* plus St Leonard's Café in the church hall, together with three evening home groups; Lunch Club for the older generation; Frogs (the after school club for children in school years 4, 5 and 6); POD (a Bible study group for teenagers); RE lessons for classes from Denton School; Bumps and Babies (a term time group meeting in the church hall for 0-1 year olds plus their carers and expectant mums; Junior Jivers (which started in January 2020 for those aged over 1 and their carers). In February 2020, we ran our sixth Bible Holiday Club (To Infinity) using the hall and classrooms of Denton School. On the back of Holiday Club, we started a brand new service on 15 March called Families at Four. This was to be a monthly outreach event at 4 pm on Sundays taking place in Denton School Hall.
- Unfortunately, Families at Four was only able to happen once because a few days later, the government announced a national lockdown as a result of the worsening Covid-19 pandemic. Church services were suspended after 15 March and not resumed until 16 August. During that time, week by week, a video service was recorded and published on the church's Youtube channel accessible each Sunday morning via the Denton Church website. All other church activities were also forced to stop (though we did our best to stay in touch with many of our contacts). Throughout this period under the umbrella of Denton Community Challenge (which could not itself take place), volunteers from the church responded to calls made to a very successful Community Helpline set up to provide assistance to anyone in the parish with shopping and prescription collection needs etc. Via our Parish Safeguarding Officer, we also provided safeguarding expertise to ensure that a proportion of the volunteers were safely recruited and checked.
- During this period an informal church leadership team met on a weekly basis in order to share responsibilities and respond to the changing situation. The team comprised Rector and Curate, two wardens and church administrator. The 2019/20 APCM could not take place in April but Nicky Still effectively took over warden responsibilities from that time. Thanks to their hard work and diligence, it was possible for the Rector to take a long-planned sabbatical between June and

September for which he is extremely grateful. After much planning and consideration, it was possible to return to in-person services (including Sunday Club for our young people) from 16 August. To comply with the ongoing restrictions, we moved to two services on a Sunday morning: 9.30 and 11 am with children's work at the earlier service. These arrangements were enabling a gradual return to normality. From the beginning of the first lockdown and throughout 2020, prayers were said each Wednesday evening with thoughts and pointers prepared by different members of the church family and mostly distributed by email.

- A socially distanced version of Uncover was able to restart in the autumn. We had to return to online services (including experimenting with livestreaming) in November because of the second lockdown but this time providing an additional weekly video and Zoom call for Sunday Club. We were able to reopen for Christmas. Our plan for an outdoor carol service at Tarring was cancelled because of the weather but we did run a very successful and well-attended Community Carol Service at Avis Road Rec., an online Christmas Bake-along, as well as a Christmas Eve Crib Challenge around the streets of Denton in place of our usual Crib Service. This was also a great success.
- Denton Church continues to play an active part in the Sussex Gospel Partnership. Since September 2020, we have hosted the SGP Saturday Morning Bible Training Course at Denton. Due to restrictions, this has mainly met on Zoom and is attended by several members of the church family.
- Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael's, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth For Christ. The work has obviously been very much affected by the various lockdowns and we became used to swapping between online, outdoor, and Covid safe indoor youth work. During the year we lost the use of our main venue, Shakespeare Hall when the owners Wave Leisure leased the building to a nursery. We have struggled to maintain contact with the "fringe" youth who attended our open access youth club. Towards the end of the year, we were offered a room at Newhaven Football Club and this will be taken forward when restrictions allow. Our core group of around 23 young people has remained very loyal and we have seen some growth, with 7 new young people this year. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Church Attendance and Review of PCC

Despite the restrictions in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the PCC still managed to hold 6 meetings during the period 1st January to 31st December 2020. 3 of these meetings took place in the Church Hall, we held one via email & telephone, one outside with social

distancing (in the summer!), and one via Zoom. The majority of these meetings were well attended by most members. Also due to the restrictions the Annual Parochial Church Meeting that is normally held in April had to be postponed, therefore took place in October 2020. As per the previous year, the APCM took place within the Sunday Service, however due to the restrictions in numbers due to social distancing this year the meeting was attended by 34 regular Church members. The main changes to the PCC in 2020 that took place at the APCM were that Ann Saunders and Derek Bush stepped down from the PCC so we thank them for their years of service, Paul Giles was re-elected to continue as our treasurer for the next 3 years, and Sue McKay joined as a new member.

During 2020 the Church electoral roll was simply revised. As a result we had 92 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 27 of whom do not live in the parish.

DBS checks

During 2020, 4 members of our church family have been checked and received new DBS clearances, mainly to support the Coronavirus support line. Details can be provided on request.

We are continuing to maintain foundation level safeguarding training this year with on-line training as provided by the Diocese. Most people either in roles with children clubs or serving on the PCC are 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

We are continuing to work to the standards as set out in this programme.

Deanery Synod

Not surprisingly Deanery Synod meetings during 2020 were severely curtailed by the pandemic restrictions and no report is available. The three Denton representatives on Deanery Synod are Joan Parish, Maria Greco and Katy Lowries.

Churchwardens' report 2020

There is nothing to report for Denton Church Hall – it was a very quiet year in terms of any hall use.

Fabric of St Leonard's Church, Denton: as a result of Bryan Perry's imminent retirement, a new inspecting architect for both church buildings was appointed, Mr John Bailey of Thomas Ford and Partners. This appointment was approved by the Diocese. He carried out the Quinquennial Inspection for St Leonard's in July 2020 which did not note any urgent repairs and concluded that very little significant work was needed within the next five years. A new gas boiler at St Leonard's was recommended some years ago. This was installed by Hedley Visick Ltd during the summer of 2020. The cost was met from general funds bolstered by donations and the grant to repay the VAT element.

Fabric of St Mary's, Tarring Neville: due to the pandemic, no services were held at Tarring in 2020. Some minor repairs were carried out to the interior roof. The churchyard was in use for an occasional burial or interment of ashes, and work continued to establish a wildflower meadow.