

2019

Annual Report



St Peter's
Heversham

St Peter's Heversham

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge:	Rev'd Bryan Kerr
Retired Priests with Permission to Officiate:	Revd. Colin Honour; Revd. Ron Rutter; Revd. Bob Wilkinson Revd Charles Ellis
Readers:	Mr. Roger Bingham; Mrs. Linda Cooper; Professor Annie Garden; Mrs Dorothy Maudsley (Reader Emeritus)

PCC:

Ex officio:	Wardens:	Richard Simpson [Lay Chair] Jane Fell
	Deanery Synod reps:	Peter Clarke [PCC <i>Secretary</i>] Linda Cooper John Mellor
Elected [members are elected for three-years, with one third of the membership retiring annually]:		
2017 to 2020 casual vacancy)		Tony Hesmodhalgh (elected 2018 to
2018 to 2021		Doreen Wadsworth Wilma Boyd-Carson Christine Thomas Christine Honour Martin Fletcher
2019 to 2022		3 vacancies
Co-opted:		David Fell (<i>Treasurer</i>) Lizzie Fawcett

Electoral Roll Officer: Denis Boyd-Carson.

The Independent Examiner: Peter Tomkins.

The Safeguarding Officer: Richard Simpson, with Linda Cooper as Authorised Assistant.

The Church Architect: Paul Grout.

In 2019 there were 100 parishioners on the Electoral Roll.
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Introduction from Revd Bryan Kerr, Priest-in-Charge

I am writing this at the beginning of a Holy Week unlike any other in living memory. As a community we face challenges to our health, social mobility and economy that are unprecedented. As a Church we face the challenges of how we point to God's love in Jesus Christ while in a time of lockdown and isolation, and of how we love our neighbour when we cannot meet together.

This report gives an account of St Peter's, Heversham for the year ending December 2019, and so it relates to more conventional times, indeed my first year in the parish. I would like to thank the people of Heversham for their welcome from that time on.

Part of the privilege of a parish-based ministry are the ways we share in the important times of peoples' lives, the joys of baptisms and weddings, the sorrows of sickness and funerals, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to differing circumstances. It is also significant that we participate with the community in celebrating Harvest, Christmas and Easter, for example, and in remembering the fallen in two World Wars and conflicts since. Away from these public events, in many smaller ways, such as offering prayer for healing, enjoying banter over a soup lunch, or lending a quiet ear for those who suffer loss, local Christians seek to serve people in our area.

St Peter's, Heversham forms part of a family of parishes (along with Levens and Milnthorpe) within the Diocese of Carlisle, and a partner with other churches of the Kent Estuary Mission Community within this ecumenical County of Cumbria. This gives us the support of the wider Church as we learn and grow together in discovering how God's Church in Heversham can also be God's Church for Heversham.

This annual report, with the parish's accounts, forms a brief snapshot of the wider life of the Church. It helps to put the PCC's financial statements into perspective for both the past year and the vision for the future. I have great pleasure in commending it to you.

Bryan Kerr (Revd)

Priest-in-charge, St Peter's Heversham

Holy Week, 2020

1. Report of the PCC

The role of a PCC is to collaborate with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting the mission of the church. After two years of vacancy we are delighted this year to have had, in Bryan, a Priest with whom to collaborate!

The life of St Peter's, its witness, ministry and mission is sustained by the giving of time, talents and money by so many people – all of whom play a valuable role, whether its participating in the leading of services or helping clean the floors; praying with those seeking prayer or helping distribute the magazines. There are innumerable tasks and, whilst sometimes we may all worry about who is available to take something on, so many people play their part.

It is in this context that the PCC plays a supportive and enabling role. Representatives of the congregation come together to take formal responsibility for ensuring that the human, physical and financial resources available to St Peter's are being used effectively so that the body of Christ in this place is alive in worship, witness and mission.

The PCC meets every other month (the standing committee meets in the intervening month). The meetings are open for any member of the congregation to observe. Formal minutes of each meeting are displayed in the Dallam chapel from the following Sunday (and are available on request from the PCC Secretary). Informal "jottings" of highlights from the meetings also appear in the weekly notice sheet in the week of the meetings. In addition to our business meetings the PCC meets periodically for a prayer session. In 2019 we also held a very helpful workshop with the diocesan Stewardship enabler.

At the heart of parish life is the regular cycle of worship, prayer and study. The PCC works with the Bryan and the members of the ministry team to ensure that this is sustained and that it reflects the varied styles and circumstances of the congregation. We have supported Bryan as he has brought in his own

style and faith. Linked to this is our Mission Action Plan, which we keep under review as we seek to support outreach into our local community.

Some of the PCC business is about the maintenance of our beautiful church and its grounds. The wardens' report summarises much of what has been done in 2019, in line with our duties. We have not just been focussing on the maintenance (important though that is). We have been moving towards the improvements to the porch area and toilets as part of our commitment to ensuring that St Peter's can be seen to be open, accessible and welcoming to all. 2019 has been a year of further background work on this; hopefully 2020 will be a year in which the fruits of our efforts materialise. We have also been gradually developing plans for a heritage exhibition, which will help us use the building to tell the story of the living faith evident here for 1200 years. Again 2019 has been about developing and exploring the concept which will be taken further in 2020.

Another important strand of PCC business is about money. The Treasurer's report provides the detail of 2019. As well as the routine management of our income and expenditure, we have been looking ahead. This has been motivated partly by a concern about a clear trend for expenditure to exceed income. It has however also been about thinking about how we ensure that the funds available to us (whether they go up or down in coming years) are used purposefully to support witness and mission. This is a process which we will start to build on in 2020.

Our responsibilities relate to St Peter's – but St Peter's is a part of a wider Christian fellowship. The PCC therefore is the place in which we receive formal reports from the Development Group for the KEMC (whose final report is attached) and each of the three Deanery Synod meetings in 2019 (notes from the three "spotlight" items are available from the PCC secretary). We also receive reports from CTiMH and the KEY Youth Project.

We have started to consider how the relationships with St Thomas and St Johns might develop in order to foster mutual support -another theme for 2020.

The PCC has meetings and most of us are unenthusiastic about meetings. Not all of the agenda items are exciting. However, the PCC is at the heart of our collective governance, seeking to ensure that the mission of St Peter's is sustained and enhanced as we face the challenges and opportunities of the 2020s. That makes it really important and very much part of our faith-life. As three members retire by rotation (with our thanks for their contribution) we would be delighted to welcome new members who are willing to join us in this task.

2. Safeguarding Report

All parishes are required to include in their Annual Report a specific report on three aspects of safeguarding.

1. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Richard Simpson.

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the Open the Book team working with children and young people, and the Pastoral Care Team working with adults who are vulnerable.

The leaders working with our groups have been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance and have received the level of training required. We are in the process of ensuring that all volunteers meet national Safer Recruitment guidelines and the required level of training.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

As required, we have agreed a formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement', and of the Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance, including amendments as they occur.

As required, the statement has been signed on behalf of the PCC and is displayed in the church.

3. Wardens' Fabric Report

This annual report is that which the Wardens must make to the PCC at the meeting before the Annual General Meeting and then, with any amendments agreed by the PCC, to the Annual Meeting to comply with the provisions of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure of 1991.

The Fabric Committee uses the baseline survey of 2016 to work with the Wardens to identify requirements for maintenance, repair and improvements to the church building and churchyard. The Fabric Committee then make recommendations to the PCC.

Quinquennial Report

The latest quinquennial inspection was undertaken in 2015 and the report received in the autumn of 2015.

Churchyard Related Works.

The churchyard mowing/tidying has been undertaken by Marcus Knipe and Martin Tyson. Clearing of the gutters and downspouts has been undertaken by George Handley and Martin Tyson.

Working parties have continued to remove ivy and other vegetation from the boundary walls have removed vegetation from grave memorials. Volunteers from the CYFA summer camp in the boarding house have contributed to clearing the boundary walls and removal of vegetation from grave memorials.

Part of the boundary wall that collapsed has been rebuilt and pointed in lime mortar. This work was funded by the Rhoda Thompson Trust Community Payback workers have continued to make a valuable contribution to maintenance of the churchyard and we are most grateful to them.

Other Building Related Works.

North Aisle

A successful List B application to re-point the north wall and repair/replace as necessary has been made to the Archdeacon

Church Roof

Storms in the autumn caused the ingress of water through the tower and it found its way through the roof of the church in the entrance area. The problem continued into early 2020.

The Old School

Routine maintenance work has included the replacement of a rotten section of bargeboard on the toilet block and the reattachment of the handrail in the disabled toilet.

Service Reports and Inspections

The Churchwardens, assisted by George Handley, ensures a regular review of equipment and machinery within the church and the implementation of routine service requirements. In the last year, this has included:

Boiler and Pump: serviced by Les Chaplow of Milnthorpe

Organ: tuned and maintained by Derek Matthews. Some repairs have been needed.

Piano: has been tuned by Simon Wroe

Fire Extinguishers: have been checked and the certificate of inspection issued.

Lightning Conductor: inspected and found to be in good order by Lightning Protection Service.

Electrical installation: A survey of the electrical installation is not recommended until January 2023.

The **church roof alarm** has been serviced and tested by SSSystems

In Conclusion

In addition to the preparation and presentation of this report, the Wardens are also required to maintain a full terrier of all the lands belonging to the church and a full

inventory of all the articles belonging to it as well as a log book noting all the alterations, additions and repairs. So far as the Wardens are aware, the contents of these documents are accurate.

To the best of our knowledge this report is an up-to-date assessment of St Peter's Church and its churchyard.

The Wardens would like to record our thanks to all who have given their time so generously to help maintain the fabric of the building and its environs. We would also like to express our gratitude to the past Wardens and Sidespeople who have guided us in our role and assisted us at services and to the bell ringers who call us to worship. All this forms part of our work and witness in the community.

Jane Fell and Richard Simpson

4. Treasurer's Annual Report

St Peter's has again been blessed with generous giving, but overall income has fallen again this year. Fortunately, expenditure has not increased, however the reduction in income means there is a deficit on the general fund for the year of £4,531. There was no significant expenditure on the Projects Fund but hopefully 2020 will see both the Exhibition Project and Entrance Project move forward.

Once again, the Rhoda Thompson Trust has helped us with specific costs. This year the grants have amounted to £1700. We are very grateful for this valuable support.

With regard to the future, it is anticipated that 2020 will see a further reduction in income but more significantly increased costs due to maintenance requirements to the main fabric of the church. Notwithstanding this the PCC have agreed to maintain the Parish Share for 2020.

Thanks again go to Peter Tomkins who has acted as Independent Examiner for 2019.
David Fell.