

**St Philip and St James, Rock**  
**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2017**

The Church is situated in the village of Rock near Alnwick, Northumberland. It is in the Diocese of Newcastle in the Church of England, and is part of the Benefice of Embleton with Rennington and Rock. The correspondence address is:

c/o Lady Well House  
Rock  
Alnwick  
NE66 3SB

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Rennington with Rock is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Benefice has been in an interregnum during the whole of 2017. PCC members who have served during the year from the last AGM on 5 March 2017 until the date this report was approved, 3 April 2018, are:

Lay Chair: Mr Jay Bosanquet  
Reader: Mr William Devonshire (& Safeguarding Officer)  
Treasurer: Mr Brian Eke  
Churchwardens: Mr Jay Bosanquet and Mr Brian Eke (Rock)  
Mr Paul Weston (Rennington)

Elected members:  
Mrs Sara Eke  
Mrs Adelaide Thompson  
Mrs Judith Weston (Secretary and Assistant Churchwarden for Rennington)

Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mr William Devonshire and Mr Paul Weston  
Representative on Farne Churches Together: None

The bankers are Barclays Bank, 20 Bondgate Within, Alnwick, and CBF Church of England Funds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET.

The independent examiner of accounts is Ms Wendy Kenway-Smith, 4 Southfield, Rennington.

**Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

## **Objectives and activities**

Rennington with Rock PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, or priest in charge, in promoting in the Benefice of Embleton and Rennington with Rock the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and ecumenical, and to maintain the church building and its contents in good repair.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Church attendance**

There are 10 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, three of whom live outside the parish. The average attendance at the 11.15 Holy Communion service on the second Sunday of the month was 11; the average attendance at the 10.00 Morning Prayer service on the fourth Sunday of the month was 10. Because of the interregnum communion services have been taken by a number of retired clergy: Canon Bob Burston, Revd John Wylam, Revd Christopher Smith, Revd Pat Gillham, Revd Sue Allen and Revd John Holland. The Morning Prayer services are taken by Bill Devonshire. We are very grateful to all of them.

A Benefice service was held on 30 April taken by Bishop Christine, which 61 people attended. Another Benefice service was held on 4 June, taken by Canon Bob Burston, with the Embassy Singers from Berlin enhancing the music. They had given a much-appreciated concert in the church on the previous evening, on the theme of 'Peace on Earth'.

On 2 April the Baptism of Beatrice Mary Bosanquet took place, taken by Canon Bob Burston.

Coffee and biscuits or cake are served after the Morning Prayer service on the fourth Sunday of the month. We are most grateful to Bill Devonshire and those who provide cake.

### **Review of the year**

The full PCC of Rennington and Rock met 5 times with an average of 6 members in attendance.

We do not have any sub-committees.

We would very much welcome new members of the Electoral Roll and the PCC.

We are grateful to all those who have helped with flower arranging and cleaning, and to the staff of Rock Estate and Rock Farms Ltd for cutting the grass in the churchyard and providing the bonfire and fireworks.

Fundraising events were the Rose Supper kindly hosted by Bill Devonshire, the Embassy Choir concert, and the Bonfire party, which together raised a total of £1662.

On Sunday 22 October a special service was held to mark Bill Devonshire's 25 years as a Reader, followed by a party at Lady Well House.

### **Organ**

We are most grateful to our voluntary organists, David Head and Peter Hignett, for playing for us regularly. David plays on second Sundays and Peter on fourth Sundays. They cope magnificently with the problems caused by cold winter temperatures, such as sticking keys.

### **Finance**

For full details please see the Treasurer's Report. Expenditure exceeded receipts by £574, largely owing to the fact that our parish share increased by 15 per cent. We have been fortunate that we did not have any major repair bills, and the grass cutting was once again done free by the Rock Estate. Shared parish expenses were lower than usual because of the interregnum, and will rise in 2018.

### **Reserves policy**

A policy will be stated when needed with an increased level of funding.

**This report was approved by the PCC on 3 April 2018 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Alison Hardy.**