

All Saints Church, Rennington

Annual Report 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints Church is situated in the village of Rennington, Northumberland. It is part of the Diocese of Newcastle within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is: South Croft, Rennington, Alnwick. NE66 3RR

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

PCC members who have served from 3rd April 2018 until the date this report is approved (4th March 2019) are:

Incumbent: **Reverend Alison Hardy** (from 19th March 2018)

Lay Chair: Mr. Jay Bosanquet

Reader: Mr. William Devonshire (& Safeguarding Officer)

Church Wardens: Mr. Paul Weston (Rennington)
Mr. Jay Bosanquet and Mr. Brian Eke (Rock)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr. William Devonshire & Mr. Paul Weston

Elected Members :

Mrs. Sara Eke

Mrs. Adelaide Thompson

Mrs. Hilary Walls

Mrs. Judith Weston (Assistant Church Warden)

PCC Secretary: Mrs.. Judith Weston

Treasurer: Mr. Brian Eke.

Bankers:

Barclays, 20 Bondgate Within, Alnwick

and

CBF Church of England Funds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET

Independent Examiner of Accounts: Ms. Wendy Kenway-Smith, 4 Southfield, Rennington.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

All Saints PCC has, with St Philip & St James Rock, the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church Attendance

There are 18 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, three of whom are not resident within the parish. This is due for renewal in 2019.

The average attendance at Sunday 10.15am service is has reduced slightly to 22; the average attendance at the 9.00am 1662 service has gone up to 12; this is despite an ageing congregation who find cold weather a deterrent to attending church. The make-up of the congregation differs slightly between the two types of service in that some parishioners prefer to attend one type of service only. Bad weather affected services at the beginning of March. Attendance at the Benefice Eucharist was up to 45. There has only been one weekday service in Holy Week - a Compline and Taize Service on Holy Monday; the Easter Vigil being held at Rock this year. 20 attended the Harvest Festival Service which was a normal 10.15am service. Produce donated was given to The People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

A service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving of the Centenary of the End of World War 1 was held on Sunday 11th November around the WW1 War Memorial. 34 local residents attended the service taken by Reader Bill Devonshire. A trumpeter sounded The Last Post and Reveille. An exhibition of WW1 memorabilia, organised by Mrs. Judy Weston with contributions from residents, was held in the church on that day and over 100 attended throughout the day. Once again our Carol Singing in The Grange retirement Home was well supported and received.

Attendance at the Christmas Carol Service at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve was down with 45 adults and 8 children attending; this was due to a well-attended service at Rock earlier in the afternoon; 26 adults and 7 children attended the Christmas Day service at 10.30am. It was notable that the congregation differed for each service, each being well received by its congregation.

The Carol Singing collection around Rennington for the Children's Society raised £101.33 with 15 residents taking part.

There have been two Marriage Services and two Baptism Services; none of the Baptisms were held during the normal pattern of services. There were no funerals or burials during the year.

The tradition of coffee & biscuits after our 10.15am Sunday service continues with most of those attending church remaining behind for this social gathering.

Review of the Year

The full PCC of Rennington and Rock met with an average of 6 members in attendance, and we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Hilary Walls to the PCC.

There were various informal meetings of the Church Wardens and church representatives, and also meetings with Canon Paul Scott, the Area Dean, to consider and plan services during the remainder of the Interregnum.

Archdeacon Peter Robinson has also met with the PCC and Church Wardens to interview and select a new incumbent. Rev. Alison Hardy was appointed and was licensed on 19th March 2018 as Priest-in-Charge and is warmly welcomed by all.

The PCC met twice jointly with Embleton PCC;

A 'Meet the Vicar' social occasion was held on 26th May in Rennington Village Hall with residents of the Parish invited to meet Rev. Alison Hardy; though attendance was small, it did give Alison a chance to talk to local people.

Rennington Scarecrows once again proved to be a hard-working but good fund-raiser with £1057 being raised.

Unfortunately the Harvest Supper was cancelled due to illness.

The luxury Christmas Hamper Raffle was once again a success raising £562. The hamper contents being generously donated by residents and businesses of Rennington and the local area. Thanks are given to Mrs. Judy Weston for all her hard work with this fund-raiser.

We thank all those who have assisted in our worship during the first part of the year:

Rev. John Wylam (Retired)

Canon Bob Burstons (Retired)

Canon Colin Gough (Retired)

Rev. John Holland (Retired)

2018 Annual Report (cont'd)

Reader Bill Devonshire

Voluntary Organist: David Head

Mrs. Judith Weston for assisting with the administration of the Chalice.

Ms. Wendy Kenway-Smith for being our Independent Examiner of Accounts .

Warm thanks and gratitude are offered to all those who have contributed to the support of the church, through gifts, works and fund raising. The contribution of the Reader & Church Wardens from St Philip & St James at Rock is noted. Those members of the village who do not attend regular services (or who are not of our faith) are particularly mentioned for their support of the church in other ways, e.g. cleaning & flower arranging; helping and providing food for the Rennington Scarecrows refreshments in the church.

Fund-raising for Rennington has continued with funds being raised though Rennington Scarecrows refreshments, the Luxury Hamper Raffle. Our thanks are offered to Mrs. Judith Weston, Assistant Church Warden, for her tireless efforts in fund raising and to members of the Benefice who have given of their time and baking skills to help raise funds at Scarecrows.

See Treasurer's Report for full details.

Finally, thanks to those who tirelessly give their time, efforts and money in decorating and sustaining the church and its grounds, including Mr. Neil Cockburn who braves the heights of the tower to maintain the clock, raise the flag and do minor repairs. Thanks are also due to Mr. Neil Smith for grass-cutting, and Mr. & Mrs. James Thompson for their support and arranging mole-catching. Many thanks to those who provide flowers and decorate the church.

Fabric Review

General maintenance continues with minor roof repairs and gutter cleaning carried out.

A new finial and rope were fixed to the flagpole and minor works to seal the base were carried out helping to keep the Tower dry.

Unfortunately the electrical system failed the testing for regulatory compliance in October. A small amount of remedial work was carried out in order to allow continued use of electricity, however two of the nave floodlights are no longer in use and care has to be taken not to switch on all the heaters. The testing and remedial work cost £446.40; however, the electrician recommended that the whole system is re-wired.

Further action points on the Quinquennial Review are being reviewed as and when funds become available.

Churchyard

The Closed Churchyard areas continue to be maintained by Northumberland County Council who has provided very welcome work not only grass-cutting but trimming trees and hedges. The PCC will still retain overall responsibility for the graveyard and continue to provide Public Liability insurance cover; future burials will continue in the newest section, and interment of cremated remains in the area set aside for this.

RESERVES POLICY

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

This report was approved by the PCC on 4th March 2019,
and signed on their behalf by Rev. A. Hardy (Priest-in-Charge)

.....