

PARISH OF HERRINGTON PENSHAW AND SHINEY ROW

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

6TH APRIL 2017

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening prayer
2. Appointment of secretary
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the last APCM (14th April 2016)
5. Electoral roll report
6. Appointment of Churchwardens
 - a. Passing of a resolution
7. Appointment of Deanery Synod representatives
8. Appointment of PCC members (other than ex officio)
9. Appointment of Lay Chair and Parish Treasurer
10. Appointment of Sidespersons
11. Reports
 - a. PCC report
 - b. Churchwardens' reports
 - c. Deanery Synod
 - d. Finance report
 - e. External examiners' report
 - f. Other reports
12. Appointment of the external examiner
13. Chair's address
14. Any questions or resolutions – any person entitled to attend the APCM may ask any question about parochial church matters, or bring about a discussion of any matter of parochial or general Church interest, by moving a general resolution, or by moving to give any particular recommendation to the PCC in relation to its duties
15. Date of next PCC meeting

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HERRINGTON,
PENSHAW AND SHINEY ROW AT ST OSWALD'S CHURCH HALL, SHINEY ROW, 14TH APRIL 2016**

Those attending: House of Clergy 1; House of Laity 17

1. Revd Steve Osman (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the meeting in a short prayer.
2. Simon Wilkinson was proposed as Secretary by Mr Sam Heath, seconded by Mrs Alicia Heath. Simon was duly appointed secretary.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J. Hargrave, Mr P. Hargrave, Revd G. Macknight, Mrs J. Price, Mrs J. Whittingham and Mrs M. Wilkinson.
4. The minutes of the previous APCM (23rd April 2015) were accepted as a true record.
5. Electoral roll report (Mrs M. Scott, Electoral Roll Officer) – the number on the electoral roll remained unchanged at 123.
6. Appointment of Churchwardens: The following persons were appointed as Churchwardens
 - a. Mrs Sylvia Green (Herrington)
 - b. Mr K. Elsdon (Penshaw)
 - c. Mrs V. Routledge (Penshaw)
 - d. Mrs J. English (Shiney Row)
 - e. Mr H. Graham (Shiney Row). The meeting noted that Mrs M. Boundy had stood down from the position of Churchwarden at Herrington and the meeting recorded its sincere thanks for her service, and noted that this would be recognised with a social event in the near future. Revd Steve reminded those present that we should look to the future and consider carefully succession planning regarding the position of Churchwarden in all three Churches. Mr Graham noted that there used to be a practise of appointing assistant wardens who could be trained for the position but that this was no longer the case.
7. Deanery Synod representatives and other PCC members, Parish treasurer and Lay Chair and Sidespersons
 - a. the following would continue to serve as DS reps: Mr H. Graham, Mrs J. Whittingham, Mr S. Wilkinson.
 - b. Other PCC members were appointed as follows: Mrs Avril Jobson, Mrs Lily Saxon, Mr Peter Lodge, Mr Edward Green, Mrs Janice Price and Mrs Sylvia Haswell. All would serve for one year.
 - c. Parish treasurer: Mr Ken Elsdon was nominated as Parish Treasurer by Mr S. Heath and seconded by Mrs A. Jobson. Mr Elsdon was duly appointed Parish Treasurer.
 - d. Lay Chair: Mr H. Graham was nominated as Lay chair by Mr E. Green and seconded by Mr S. Wilkinson. Mr Graham was duly appointed Lay Chair.
 - e. Sidespersons: these were unchanged from 2015.
8. Reports
 - a. PCC report – Revd Steve noted that the policy of inviting baptism families to a family service or Messy Church began on 1st April 2016 and has already produced some responses.
 - b. The proceedings of All Saints Penshaw DCC were accepted as tabled.
 - c. Churchwardens' reports: At St Aidan's Herrington, major work had been carried out on the roof and a new environmental heating system. Weekly Sunday services

(usually Morning Prayer) continue. There are outreach services at Herrington Mews Nursing Home and 190 people attended daily during the school holidays for the football coaching. Volunteer drivers for the Welfare bus could not be recruited, so the bus was disposed of. The Churchwardens at Herrington thanked the Community Trust for their partnership with the DCC during 2015-16. Churchwardens' reports from Penshaw and Shiney Row were accepted as tabled. Mr Elsdon noted that Church roof slates needed for Penshaw were required to be Westmorland Slate, which was available for purchase by the tonne.

- d. Deanery Synod report was accepted as tabled with no questions, although Revd Steve noted that discussions about a possible merger or joint working with another Deanery were ongoing.
 - e. Financial report: Mr Elsdon noted that there was one item missing from the report, namely the Church Hall account for Shiney Row.
 - i. For Herrington, overall giving was slightly down on 2014 figures, but the Parish Share and expenses were paid in full. There was an excess of receipts over payments of £591 (compared to an excess of payments of £251 in 2014). The accumulated interest for the Trust fund 86/1 Cumming was £206.01; this could be used for "the maintenance or extension of the work of and in connection with the established Church of England within this parish" (but not the capital, which stood at £575.93. The other Trust fund (86/6 Ecclesiastical Purposes) stood at £2154.34, all of which was available for ecclesiastical purposes "within the parish", but it was unclear whether, in either case, the "Parish" referred to was the former parish of St Aidan or the current Parish of Herrington, Penshaw and Shiney Row.
 - ii. Overall giving at All Saints' Penshaw was up 4% on 2014 figures, though the Church Hall ran at a loss of £270.16. All Parish Share and expenses were paid in full. There was an excess of receipts over payments of £3097.14 (compared to £2664.85 in 2014). There were four restricted funds.
 - iii. At St Oswald's Shiney Row, overall giving increased by 5% on 2014 figures; the Church Hall ran at a loss of £674.49. The Parish Share was paid in full, but no expenses were paid into the PCC account from St Oswald's. There was an excess of receipts over payments of £1969.77, compared to a negative excess of £2670 in 2014.
 - iv. Mr Elsdon noted that joining the Energy Basket had reduced Gas costs by 37% and electricity costs by 48% at Penshaw compared to 2014 figures. Mr Elsdon also noted that the use of LED lighting could further reduce electricity consumption and carbon footprint, and that Parish Buying now included the installation of boilers, with a potential saving of 40%. There were on questions, but Edward Green recorded his formal thanks to Ken for all his efforts as treasurer; this was reciprocated for all Church treasurers.
 - f. All accounts had been examined but the examiner's report had not yet been received.
 - g. There were no other reports.
9. Derek Reay was reappointed as the Independent Examiner.

10. Chairman's Address – Revd Steve thanked everyone who worked for or in the Church and assured them that nobody was taken for granted, especially those who do the “unseen” stuff. We would need to work on the same things as we did in 2015 – working together. The response from the parish to the LyCIG Local course was disappointing. Are congregations not interested in growth? Do their members have nothing to contribute? Or perhaps they are not used to being asked to contribute. Either way, Revd Steve refused to be downhearted. Steve reiterated the principles of LyCIG: the intention to grow your local Church; the establishment of financial growth from spiritual growth; invitation to new (and old) members; sharing our stories of faith; maintaining growth; and develop worship patterns to encourage newcomers. Every Church is important and different; Steve intended to increase the provision of groups like the Good Book Club, but the responsibility for growth also lies with Church members, and especially the need to prayer at the centre. It was Steve's intention to foster this development and to change the culture of the Church. Steve also put on formal record his appreciation for all of Glen's help and input, and for Judith, who had undergone training on Wings for Worship. Steve would continue to provide a clear lead on the three priorities: Growth, Children and Young People and Poverty. Steve completed his address by reminding us that we remain dependent on the Trinity.
11. There were no questions or resolutions.
12. The next PCC meeting would be held on Tuesday 31st May 2016.
13. Mrs Alicia Heath thanked Revd Steve for all his work in trying to change things that needed to be changed while keeping the “old ways” where appropriate.

REPORTS FOR THE APCM 2017

PCC report

The Parish of Herrington, Penshaw and Shiney Row consists of three Churches, St Aidan's Herrington, All Saints' Penshaw and St Oswald's Shiney Row, serving distinct communities in the Deanery of Houghton le Spring, Durham Diocese. The Parish continues to support outreach activities, including Messy Church and a parish website, and participated fully in Talking Jesus Durham in March 2017. The Parish also publishes a parish magazine. The PCC met its full Share promise for 2016.

The PCC consisted of the following membership during 2016-2017

Chair: Rev Steven Osman

Clergy: Revd Glen MacKnight (until December 2016)

Lay chair: Mr H. Graham

Lay Reader Miss D. Cummings

Churchwardens: Mr H. Graham, Mrs J. English, Mrs S. Green, Mr K. Elsdon (PCC treasurer), Mrs V. Routledge.

Deanery Synod representatives: Mr H. Graham, Mr S. Wilkinson (PCC secretary) and Mrs J. Whittingham

Members: Mr E. Green, Mrs S. Haswell, Mr S. Heath, Mr P. Lodge, Mrs J. Price and Mrs L. Saxon.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is 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

Herrington, Penshaw and Shiney Row PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Steven Osman, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, with the support of Revd Glen MacKnight (Glen was appointed to a new parish in December 2016), Lay Reader Dawn Cummings and Judith Whittingham (who was licensed through the Wings for Worship course). This includes outreach activities across the Parish, especially Messy Church, and the maintenance of the Parish website, and other activities including the running of courses such as A Welcoming Church and missional activities such as The Good Book Club. The PCC also supports the publication of the Parish Magazine, in collaboration with the PCC communications working group.

Electoral Roll

There were 123 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll (revised in 2013).

Report on the activities of the PCC of Herrington, Penshaw and Shiney Row 2016-2017

At the meeting of 31st May 2016, the PCC agreed its pledge for the 2017 Share Offer. This was a total of £21630 (compared to the offer of £20,600 in 2016), to be divided among the three Churches as follows: Herrington £2703; Shiney Row £8111; Penshaw £10815. A new pattern of Services for the three Churches was discussed and provisionally adopted. It was announced that Revd Libby Wilkinson, Area Dean, would be leaving to take up a post as Vicar of St Gabriel's. Talking Jesus Durham (Bishops in Mission 2017) was announced and Revd Steve asked members to consider what type of Parish event they would like to hold as part of this (2nd-5th March 2017), either alone or with another Church in the Deanery (or both). Options for developing discipleship were discussed, and Revd Steve announced that a follow up to the LyCIG Local course, "A Welcoming Church", would run soon.

At the meeting of 20th September 2016, it was reported to the PCC that the increase in Share Offer for 2017 across the Diocese had been about 1% on the 2016 figure, rather than the 5% required by the financial plan to have a balanced budget by 2020, and that there would doubtless be consequences for the Deanery and Parish in terms of clergy posts. The impending visit of Rachael Phillips, Diocesan Generous Giving Project Officer, was discussed and an event with Cheese, Wine and musical entertainment was planned. Activity at the Deanery Pastoral and Mission Committee regarding collaborative within the Deanery (and potentially between other Deaneries) was reported. Options for an event for Talking Jesus Durham were further discussed and a combined event based around the St Aidan's coffee morning, Youth group and Messy Church was identified as a possible front runner. Dates for important services in the run up to Christmas were finalised.

At the meeting of 15th November 2016, the PCC opted to leave our Share Offer for 2017 unchanged after a detailed discussion of possible options. The revision of local fees for weddings and funerals for 2017 was agreed (these were unchanged on the 2016 fees). Messy in the Park, a Deanery wide missional event, was hailed as an outstanding success and Revd Steve underlined the need to build on this in the future. The Missional Leadership for Growth Course (and Revd Steve's commitment to participate, along with 3 to 5 lay members) was announced.

At the meeting of 21st February 2017, the Parish accounts for the year were presented for approval prior to submission to the Independent Examiner. The accounts were formally approved. Advice from the Diocese that two long standing Trust funds held at Herrington should be closed was discussed and options for use of these funds was considered. At the meeting, the option to transfer the funds to Herrington DCC account was preferred. The meeting was also reminded of the need for PCC members and other appointees to complete Fit and Proper Persons Declarations, as well as the need to pass a resolution at the next APCM regarding the length of service for Churchwardens. Talking Jesus Durham events were discussed, and the Missional Leadership for Growth course was further discussed. Important dates and events for Holy Week were discussed and finalised.

Deanery Synod Report 2016-2017

At the meeting of 11th May 2016, Revd Glen outlined plans for Messy in the Park (taking Messy Church to a new congregation). There was some feedback from the Parishes regarding the future of the Deanery and possible joining with another deanery. There were some concerns about losing identity if we were to merge with another deanery; we should not be viewed as a “poor relation”. There was a need for more information about both Chester le Street and Wearmouth Deaneries and a need for maintaining transparency, as well as concerns that the process appeared to be happening quickly. Synod reps were encouraged to return this matter to PCCs for further discussion. Synod gave its thanks to Revd Libby Wilkinson for all her efforts as Area Dean and our blessings and good wishes as she took up her post as Vicar at St Gabriel’s.

At the meeting of 20th October 2016, we remembered the life and service as Deanery Secretary of Mrs Margaret Hope. Ven Stuart Bain reported on the lower than expected Parish Share Offer for 2017 across the Diocese and noted that a one year budget would be set for 2017 rather than the planned three year budget. Revd Glen’s appointment as the vicar of Hillside was announced; there was also much positive feedback on the Messy in the Park event, and tribute to Glen was paid for making this happen (amongst others); this was an example of how we could operate more collaboratively as a Deanery and indeed future events of this type could be collaborative between ourselves and Chester le Street. Hilary Avent, our Deanery contact person for Talking Jesus Durham 2017, shared her experience of the Bishops in Mission event in Blackburn Diocese, and noted that she was happy to talk to PCCs about the upcoming event. Following this, there were “breakout” sessions in which members of Synod discussed Deanery events they had enjoyed, what outcomes there had been from these events and how we had collaborated. Responses included:

Enjoyable events:

- Deanery pilgrimage and joint worship afterwards
- Carol singing in Wetherspoons
- Stars in your eyes karaoke
- Stainer’s Crucifixion at West Rainton
- Passion Play
- Social BBQs
- Confirmation services
- MU Deanery Events
- Messy in the Park

Outcomes:

- Fellowship, socialisation, getting to know one another, mission

How did we collaborate:

- Confirmation classes for young people

- Good communication
- Giving people plenty of notice of events

Members were also asked:

What their “dream Deanery” would look like:

Responses included:

- A bigger collaborative group to work with so that we have more resources
- Joint youth events
- Eliminating parish boundaries
- Being mission focused/God centred
- A positive and can-do attitude

How could the deanery develop?

Responses included:

- Undertake Asset Based Community Development approach to ascertain needs
- Collaborate over all age events, each church playing to their strengths, offering what they can

What can we do?

Responses included:

- Listen to each other
- Communicate our enthusiasm for the deanery to our congregations
- Value everyone’s contribution
- Be given permission more to do things
- Set up a deanery prayer group

At the meeting of the 9th February 2017, we were pleased to appoint Roger Elsey as interim secretary. The meeting began with Dwelling in the Word, with reflections on Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus’s call to his disciples and its implication for our work of mission in the deanery. There was a final update on Deanery activities for Talking Jesus Durham. Houghton Deanery had been allocated the Bishop of Hull, the Rt Revd Alison White, together with 4 Cranmer Hall students. There was a discussion of the arrangements for accommodation and hospitality and the Archdeacon undertook to circulate a schedule of the events that had been arranged in the parishes. The Diocesan budget had been reviewed in the light of the proposals to increase Share by 5% p.a. to allow the budget to return to a surplus in 2020. It was accepted that this was unachievable and the budget was now

based on a 1% year-on-year increase in Share. The consequence is that the number of stipendiary clergy posts will have to reduce to 109 by 2020, of which 4 will be allocated to our Deanery. This makes closer co-operation between parishes even more pressing, and boundaries will become porous. This was recognised as a serious challenge and PCCs need to discuss how we can increase giving and co-operate in ways that allow us to flourish together. Revd Steve Osman reported that the Deanery had substantially achieved the target for Parish Shares in 2016, which was a significant achievement. The Diocese is considering the introduction of a parish giving scheme to replace envelopes as banks are increasingly reluctant to deal in the amount of coins churches tend to collect. The new scheme is centrally organised, which will relieve some of the burden on parishes of, eg Gift Aid reclaim, and involves a move to giving by Direct Debit. There would be an automatic increase in the amounts taken by Direct Debit in line with RPI, but there is an option to opt out. There were obvious advantages to this. Discussions on the potential merger with Chester-le-Street Deanery continue. A meeting was held with the Revd Canon David Glover, Area Dean of Chester-le-Street. Most of their parishes are significantly bigger than ours, with the exception of Lumley. There is a growing consensus that the merger would be a positive step and it was agreed that the conversation should continue. We should consider some joint events to develop relationships, eg a joint Chapter meeting. There was a feeling that more collaboration across boundaries would make us a more effective witness for Jesus. Break-out groups discussed ideas for collaboration across parish boundaries and two positive suggestions emerged; i) joint applications for (and a sharing of) funding, ii) the formation of a Deanery prayer group, consisting of those on intercessions rotas who would meet to discuss improving our praying and instituting regular prayer for the Deanery.