

Leake with Siltons PCC AGM 12 March 2017

Report for All Saints, Nether Silton and St Mary's, Over Silton churches

1. The following will be our new **church officers** in 2017:

Dr Christine Challis - Churchwarden (1), Nether Silton *
Mrs Georgina Bowe - Churchwarden (1) Over Silton **
Mr John Inch - Churchwarden (2) Over Silton
Mrs Joanne Aston - Secretary, Siltons PCC
Mr John Aston - Covenant Secretary, Siltons PCC
Mrs Penny Pringle - Treasurer, Siltons PCC

* Dr Challis hopes another person(s) will come forward in 2018 as she has held the post for ten years; it is time someone else came forward

** Mrs Bowe said this would be her last year

2. St Mary's Over Silton

- a) Following the 2015 **Quinquennial Inspection** the Secretary has been liaising with the Lay Rector Trinity College Cambridge about their 99% Chancel Repair Liability. The Diocesan Architect is preparing tenders and it is hoped this major exercise (costs over £100k) will start soon.

Regarding the need to repair the vestry roof and churchyard walls, the Over Silton churchwardens have been working hard to raise funds/seek grant funding to help meet these costs of repairing the vestry roof and the church boundary walls. It was also decided to remove the concrete perimeter drainage channel around the church, which has been recommended for removal, and replacement with soakaway, for some years.

The Jill Franklin and Normanby Trusts have both made donations. The Heritage Lottery Fund originally declined to help but this was because they had misunderstood the application, saying they "felt proposals would not sufficiently address the urgent needs of the church as the chancel roof was not included in the project but appeared to be of equal urgency to the vestry roof". Of course, the chancel roof was not included in the application because Trinity was funding 99%, which was made clear at the time of the application. HLF has asked for a second application but, possibly recognising its error, is fast-tracking it and the churchwardens might be able to give more information at the APGM.

- b) In addition to the normal service pattern, there were two baptisms and a wedding at Over Silton, as well as a special service as part of the Sowerby Music Society Church Crawl. This was well attended and the Society made a contribution of £100 to church funds.

3. All Saints Nether Silton

- a) 2016 saw the loss of two long-standing supporters of the Silton churches, Alice Cowton and Geoff Bielby. Both had been churchwardens there, Geoff also at Over Silton. He had also served as Siltons Treasurer for some years.
- b) In addition to the normal services, there was an interment of ashes and a funeral (Alice's – Geoff's funeral service took place at Leake). The Bishop of Whitby Paul Ferguson took the Christmas morning service of Holy Communion, which was very well attended.

4. General

- a) During Ian's illness we were able to manage service coverage with the help of Trevor Lewis; either he took the services himself or, with Ian's help, arranged cover (see reference to Bishop of Whitby above). We are delighted that Ian has made a good recovery.
- b) The Covenant Secretary had noted a drop in covenant income over the last two years, which is disappointing. Covenants have lapsed when someone has died; we are not succeeding in finding replacements. Other covenants have been cancelled by the covenanter. The PCC will begin another drive, this year, to encourage local people to help play a small part in the ongoing upkeep of these two churches; the number of weddings, baptisms and funerals is testimony to their being needed by the local community.
- c) The two churches' joint **Freewill Offering** to the Diocese will be £1000 this year. At present we propose to raise this to £1250 in 2017. In the last three years, we have lost several of our long-standing covenants; two more were lost in 2015 and another two in 2016.

Joanne Aston

Secretary, Siltons PCC

March 2017