

Electoral Roll Officers Report

Leake:

Resident: 69 (76) Non-Resident: 8 (16)

Over Silton:

Resident: 10 (8) Non-Resident: 4 (5)

Nether Silton:

Resident: 13 (8) Non-Resident: 1 (1)

(In brackets Electoral Roll numbers as at A.P.C.M. 2018)

In accordance with canon law, the electoral roll of the parish was fully renewed during 2019. I am grateful to all electoral roll members for taking the time to renew their membership this year. Thank you also to several members of the congregation who assisted with distributing and collecting the forms.

Charles Forman, Electoral Roll Officer

Aim and purposes:

Leake Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dianne Gamble, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities:

The PCC seeks to encourage membership and worship at St. Mary's, Leake. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve as many as possible of those that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

The PCC seeks to maintain the fabric of St Mary's church to support this mission.

Achievements and Performance:

In addition to maintaining a regular pattern of services throughout the year at St. Mary's Church, Leake, the PCC has been involved in and organised the following:

- Special celebration services at major festivals e.g. Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
- Hosted one of the services to mark the retirement of Rev Ian Houghton.
- Hosted the installation of Rev Dianne Gamble as Priest in Charge.
- Purchased Bibles as a gift for pupils leaving Knayton School.
- Purchased a new sound system to support the use of recorded music in worship.
- Further developed Cafe Church within our pattern of services.
- Provided a stall at the annual Borrowby Show to show the work and life of the church in the community.
- Hosted a Harvest Lunch in Borrowby Village Hall and Lent Lunch in Knayton Village Hall.

- Provided a well-attended Christmas service for Knayton School.
- Invited a guest choir to enhance our worship on Advent Sunday.
- Run a church lottery monthly throughout the year, adding considerable financial help to our funds.

Worship and Prayer:

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services.

We are grateful for the support provided by Rev Bill Dewing, the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon in taking services during the vacancy of the incumbent post.

During 2018 it was estimated that around 33 people attend at least one of our services over a typical month.

Major festivals.

Attendance at major festivals was strong during 2018. 45 attended our Eucharist on Easter Sunday. The attendance at the Knayton School Christmas service was 268 and a total of 132 people attended our parish services in Advent and Christmas.

The Eucharist.

The Eucharist is usually celebrated twice a month at St Mary's Church, in turn with other churches in the Benefice. An average of 20 people attend this service.

Cafe Church.

Cafe Church, a more informal service based in the village halls, has now become an established part of our service pattern. It has been successful at reaching a number of adults and children who do not attend other forms of worship. Average attendance is around 25. It is now planned to hold a service every month where possible.

Occasional offices.

During 2018 we provided one baptism, three weddings and two funerals.

Deanery Synod:

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Three PCC members attended a Deanery meeting which helped to support the PCC in its financial stewardship.

In the last year the PCC has renewed its commitment to Churches Together, Thirsk District; an ecumenical group covering all the churches in Thirsk and the area. The group is part of North Yorkshire Moors Churches Together.

Pastoral Care:

There is no formalised system of pastoral care but many church members are actively involved in caring for neighbours. Formal pastoral visiting falls mainly upon the incumbent. Those who are unable to attend church are encouraged to make contact if they would appreciate a visit or to receive Holy Communion.

Outreach:

Our parish magazine continues to be distributed monthly to a wide circulation of parishioners both on and beyond the Church Electoral Roll.

The Leake website (leakechurch.org.uk) is now well established. Our Facebook page is followed by 111 people. It is regularly used by visitors to share photographs of the church and to discuss their visit. The church page on Trip Advisor has continued to receive several excellent reviews from our visitors. We hope that this will make us better known by tourists in the area. We have also continued to develop our "Friends of Leake" email newsletter, which now reaches 101 people. The aim of our social media presence is to provide a link between the worshipping community and our "second congregation" of regular visitors.

Knayton School

The PCC is grateful to Jean West who represented the PCC as a foundation governor until 2019. The PCC is currently seeking to appoint a successor. The incumbent is an ex-officio governor and one PCC member is a parent governor.

Ecumenical Relationships:

We have engaged in discussion with Borrowby Methodist Chapel in respect of shared activities and continue to seek opportunities for shared worship.

Volunteers:

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to keep our church so well cared for and churchyard so well-tended.

Health, Safety and Safeguarding:

The PCC is aware of its obligations to try and maintain a healthy and safe environment for the worshippers and visitors to St. Mary's and it has appointed a Child Protection Officer to keep us informed of our obligations to keep children as safe as possible. PCC members have received safeguarding training and a process of providing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks has begun. The PCC is working to establish a robust process for recording their training and DBS status.

Finances.

Independently examined Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending on the 31st December are available from the Secretary on request.

During 2018, we made a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £1,496.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £33,153 (£32,552) of which £16,331 (£16,291) was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £3,696 (£3,208) was refunded by HMR&C as Gift Aid. No restricted donations were received.

£31,657 (£29,778) was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church, Leake, including Freewill Giving to the Diocese of £17,700 which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The net result for the year was a surplus of receipts over payments of £1,496 (£2,775) on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £36,817 and on restricted funds £1,809. The unrestricted funds include substantial gifts received in previous years of £21,039, which sum is being carried forward as a designated fund.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £8,000 and at the year-end a sufficient balance is to hand. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

It is our policy to place fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and as National Savings and Investments deposits; at the 31st December £1,121 was with the former and £29,500 with NS & I.

Mrs Janet Peckitt, Treasurer

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church of St Mary, Leake.

We continue to keep the church open to all for visiting and private prayer.

The church is generally in a good state of repair. The quinquennial inspection in 2016 had advised some repointing work and this is currently being arranged. There continues to be an issue with water ingress into the vestry and south aisle in heavy rain and wind, which should be remedied by planned roof works.

Two dangerous trees in the churchyard have been felled, with the permission of the archdeacon.