# THE GOOD SHEPHERD, TATHAM FELLS



**Annual Report**

**of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**and**

**Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019**

**Incumbent**

Revd Mark Cannon
The Vicarage
Wray
Lancaster
LA2 8QF

**Secretary**

Mrs Sara Mason
Farr House
Lowgill
Lancaster LA2 8RA

**Bank**

Barclays Bank
High Bentham

**Independent examiner**

**The Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells**

**Background:**
The Good Shepherd is part of the United Benefice of East Lonsdale.

**Location: Higher Tatham, –** car access from Wray by Fairheath Head/Burnmoor Road; only by foot from Lowgill/Mill bridge (see attached map)

**Membership of the Church Council -** is in accordance with a resolution passed April 2004 and is reviewed regularly. (Synodical Government Measure 2003)

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| Incumbent: | Revd Mark Cannon<br>Revd Sister Susan (OCMM) |
| Priest (retired) with permission to officiate: | Canon Norman Dawson |
| Readers: | Dr Ann Dawson<br>Mr Peter Osborne (Vice-chair)<br>Mrs Mary Winter |
| Wardens: | Mrs Carole Butcher (also Benefice Secretary)<br>Mr John Wilson (Treasurer) |
| Representatives on Tunstall Deanery Synod: | Mr Edward Mason<br>Mrs Sara Mason |
| Members (elected) | Mrs Olive Beard<br>Mr David Butcher<br>Mrs Sue Clements<br>Mrs Althea Gillibrand<br>Mr Edward Mason<br>Mrs Sara Mason (Secretary)<br>Mrs Margaret McIntosh<br>Mr Stephen Middleton<br>Mrs Mary Myers<br>Mrs Jane Procter<br>Mr Carl Taylor<br>Mrs Carole Thurnham<br>Mrs Helen Wilkinson |

Committees: Standing Committee: vice-chair, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer.
Worship: organised in ministry meetings
Fundraising: Chair: Mrs Althea Gillibrand reports to the PCC meetings

Charitable Status:

We are not registered as an individual church with the Charity Commission. Payments to PCC members are solely for administrative expenses incurred over the year.

**Electoral Roll**: The new Electoral Roll stands at 50 *(48 in 2017, 49 in 2018) and is now 53 (2020)*

**The Church Council** has met four times during the year.. Members are aware of the PCC Measure. Agendas include topics for discussion put forward by the Diocese and Deanery as well as our own local matters and the concerns of the Benefice. Decisions are normally by consensus, occasionally by show of hands.

**Relationship with the Diocese:** We have paid our parish share at 100% .
The Diocesan website is read and appreciated. The PCC has two Deanery representatives who attended if there is a meeting. They find it useful to discuss rural church life. The parish is aware of 'Vision' but has no parish champion.

**Relationship within the Benefice**: We come together for worship occasionally, particularly on fifth Sundays which are attended by a good proportion of our regular congregation.
The Benefice magasine 'The Bell' has been published by Carole Butcher, Benefice Administrator who recently handed over to her successor, Marilyn Gaskell. It continues to run well either on line or in paper form and is delivered up here.

Services in the Benefice are co-ordinated by Ann Dawson one of the Readers and a Service is scheduled at The Good Shepherd for four Sundays in the month at 9.30am, 11am (once a month) and at 2pm or 6.30pm (once a month)

Baptisms, marriages and funerals are taken by the vicar. Neighbours visit each other informally at times when support is needed.

Some of the events of the church and the Benefice are well-supported by non-churchgoers as social events especially in their willingness to make food.

**Church attendance**

**For the purpose of assessing the Parish Share the Regular Weekly Attendance (RWA) was 16 *(15 in 2018).* This Return was made at the end of 2019 by the churchwardens.**

**There was 1 wedding, 1 funeral and 2 baptisms in the church.**

The numbers attending the Easter Day service was 22 (including 2 under 16). (*20 in 2018*)
The number attending on Christmas Eve was 26 (*24 in 2018)*

Discussion over attendances continues and we are still considering with care how Church worship appeals to all. We have had good numbers of parents, supporters and relatives if there is a Service with the school attending at Harvest Festival, the school Carol Service, Mothering Sunday or the Leavers' Service.

The perception that 'festival services are well-attended' came forth from the Survey in January 2019 and it is thought that inviting people to come to these, one to one, helps. Respondees mind about the presence of the church but do not necessarily attend more often. However over the year in addition to the traditional Carol Service, we had a very successful Jazz Sunday Service, a Pancake Service and a Concert, all with food afterwards at the Old School, our back–up hall close by. The Jazz Service was followed up with a Service focussing on the music and words of Mahalia Jackson.

**Forms of Services**.

Discussion continues at PCC meetings about well-loved traditional forms of worship and more modern liturgy, mainly as a result of the parish survey. The form of liturgy is used at the discretion of the person leading the Service and we have Service sheets accordingly with some BCP canticles and sometimes simpler wording from the Archbishop's Council 2002 approved use. After some months of use, the sign of the Peace in the monthly Holy Communion was discontined at the request of some members of the congregation who find it unsettling.

The church has an open policy for baptisms, weddings and burials in the churchyard for those not in the parish who have a connection with it. Grave space is limited and the Diocesan faculty scheme has been offered to those who want to make sure of their plot.

**Tatham Fells Primary School** is a Church of England voluntary controlled school. Four Governors of the School are members of the PCC, two of them are co-opted Governors for special roles, one being RE, John Wilson, and the other safeguarding. One Foundation Governor Helen Wilkinson is chair of Governors and the other, Mrs Bronwen Osborne who is closely connected with the church, was nominated by the PCC..

After school clubs run by volunteers are going well. They are 'Loaves and Fishes'(once a term) and 'Open the Book' (fortnightly) .
The Friends of the School is both active in resourcing many extra activities at the school and being sociable for the parents.

**Safeguarding** has been brought up to date with 6 members attening training C1 and C2 in November 2019. Two representatives to the Diocese report to the PCC so that the PCC is aware of procedures to protect vulnerable people, both children and adults. Contact numbers are displayed at church and literature about reporting any incidents is in the hands of these representatives.

**Outreach:** We continue to try to draw people in and are not discouraged by the church attendance numbers. They illustrate much effort by all of us. The Survey Return (50%) showed a very high percentage of support for the church as a building and as a focus for all in the parish.
We continue to work with the Methodist church and ecumenism.

**Fabric of the church**: There are a few ongoing topics from last year.
Boiler: this has gradually caused less problems with a more even floor. The revenue from the Government's scheme is still a good help to resources. Those who are on the rota for regularly filling the feeder deserve thanks.

Improvements and maintenance:

The downspouts from the tower still awaits finishing off and the faculty to be completed.

Also with a faculty, the Windsor Garnett grave has had the railings round it removed and is being tended. The churchyard continues to be an interesting project for those working with 'God's Acre'. Swift boxes have been made and grass cutting has been experimented with, allowed to grow longer in some places. How and when to do this involves interest and on-going discussion.

**Finance (accounts attached)**

Notes: Annual Gift Aided and regular giving amounted to £5,225
Income from other collections accounts for sums passing through our account for funerals etc.

Expenditure the Parish Share has been paid at 100% and a small excess was given to the Church Urban Fund.
Churchyard upkeep is helped by the Parish Council Grant income.
Boiler Services and repairs continue to be an untoward expense but are offset to some extent by the income from fuel repayments.

The treasurer considers that the overall picture is positive.

**A Sound system** has been installed from the lecterns and some individual microphones. This could be supplemented with video equipment. B4RN (Broadband for Rural Network) has enabled Wi Fi at the church even though there is not a telephone signal.

**Giving**: Christian Aid, the Childrens' Society, Embrace the the Middle East, the church Urban Fund and Exodus House continue to be supported.
A parishioner, Mrs Liesel Fox, organised Lent lunches for all three churches of this end of the Benefice at which donations are made and passed on to various charities.

**Fund Raising for church funds**:
Fundraising, as well as giving, is considered as a sociable activity and involves a large number of people in the parish.

Wray Fair: £462
Clearbeck Gardens: £1,036
Harvest Sale £280
Harvest Supper £300
Christmas Coffee Morning: £605 (of which £100 to Exodus House Orphanage, Benin via Hannah Burch)

**Summary**:

As in previous reports we are still a small rural parish with a large area at the edge of the diocesan and county boundary, having a stable population of around 230 and it is still within this context that the PCC report should be read. The church is thriving but we do not feel complacent about this as regular attenders are in general elderly. However, we see this as normal and trust in signs of continuity and growth.

We are blessed with a strong ministry team with their particular communication skills and we thank all those who have led our worship. We thank those involved in the ministry of the parish who lead Services and who listen, comfort and advise.

We have been continually glad of our two excellent organists, both parishioners. One of these, David Butcher will very soon be leaving the parish. His and Carole's years here (at Ivah) will be much missed, as mainly through them and particularly with the Concerts called "Music in the Fells", love of music in the church has been strengthened and greatly appreciated.

Carole Butcher, one of the churchwardens, will also be leaving us any day now, after 22 years of consistently being at church on Sundays with a duty of care each day of the week. The Sidesmen's duty is to support them (to a greater or lesser extent they try to do this). Those who read at

Services, those who mend and those who tend the churchyard, and those who clean and put flowers in the church all year are all supportive. The weekly cleaning/flower rota continues to function well. The large size of the Church Council (11), the number of Sidesmen (12) those who make refreshments as well as the wide number of those who participate in fund raising events bear witness to the involvement of many people in the traditional life of our church.

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