



WHITWORTH  
C H U R C H



# Annual Report for 2019



**WHITWORTH PARISH CHURCH, SPENNYMOOR  
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**AGENDA**

1. PRAYERS
2. APOLOGIES
3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2020**

**AGENDA**

1. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/CLERK FOR THE MEETING
2. MINUTES OF APCM HELD 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019
3. MATTERS ARISING
  
4. ELECTIONS:
  - a) SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
  - b) PCC MEMBERS
  
5. APPOINTMENTS:
  - a) SIDESPERSONS
  - b) INDEPENDENT EXAMINER (ACCOUNTS)

6. REPORT OF ELECTORAL ROLL: RESOLUTION OF PCC MEMBERS FOR 2020

7. REPORTS FROM PCC

- a) SECRETARY'S REPORT OF BUSINESS OF THE PCC DURING 2019
- b) TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019
- c) CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC OF THE CHURCH
- d) CURATE'S REPORT
- e) DEANERY SYNOD REPORT
- f) SPENNYMOOR GROUP COUNCIL
- g) CHURCHES TOGETHER

8. REPORTS FROM CHURCH GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES HOUSEGROUP

9. VICAR'S REPORT

10. QUESTION TIME

11. CLOSING PRAYER AND THE GRACE

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
PARISHIONERS OF WHITWORTH CHURCH HELD ON  
13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

This meeting was held in the church at 7.30 p.m.

1. The meeting of Parishioners opened with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence: Kath Hall

Present: Rev. M. Tarling (Vicar), Linda Crowe, Graeme Ball, June Wilson, Verna McEneny, Pat and Stuart Wright, Julie Ryan, Chris and Wayne Rhodes. (Vivienne Lowe arrived later).

3. Election of Church Wardens: June Wilson and Wayne Rhodes were elected as Church Wardens.

Meeting closed.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019  
IN THE CHURCH.**

1. Linda Crowe was elected as clerk for the meeting.  
(Kath Hall is unwell and still in hospital)
  
2. The minutes of the 2018 APCM were read.
  
3. There were no Matters Arising.
  
4. Elections
  - (a) Synod Representatives – Pat Wright and Chris Rhodes are still within their 3 year appointment.
  - (b) PCC members/resignations/changes. Julie Ryan and Joan Lowes do not want to be re-elected. No volunteers.
  
5. Appointments
  - (a) We do not have side persons, only Meet and Greeters. We will continue with this system.
  - (b) Independent Examiner (Accounts). We will continue with G. O’Hehir being the Church Accountant.

## 6. Report of Electoral Roll

We have 32 Family members and 24 wedding persons = 56 on the Electoral Roll.

## 7. Reports from PCC

(a) No Secretary's Report as Kath Hall is unwell.

(b) Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the accounts for Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

(c) Church Wardens' Report (see pages 6/7/8) in the booklet)

(d) Deanery Synod Report ( see page 9 in the booklet

(e) Spennymoor Group Council (see pages 10/11 in the booklet)

(f) Churches Together (see page 12 in the booklet)

## 8. Report from Church Groups and Activities (see pages 13 to the end of the booklet)

(a) Housegroup

(b) Open the Book

(c) Publicity and PR

9. Vicar's Report – thanks to Wardens, Stuart, Linda and Kath. 2018 was an exciting year for Open the Book which is soon to be expanding into a second year. The booklet is good PR and good press, Facebook is

growing. How can we connect with local people in the houses at Burton Park? 2019 is an exciting year for capital works – loo, lighting, resurfacing, windows.

The Vicar read Psalm 127. We must pray with God, trust to keep the church, be more well-known in the community. If God wants a church in Whitworth, he will make sure of it.

#### 10. Question Time

Stuart stated that the Parish Giving Scheme has been officially adopted in 2019. We must review our giving. Everyone to be given information.

11. The meeting finished with a prayer 8.15 p.m.

LC/March 2019



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT OF BUSINESS OF THE PCC IN 2019**

The PCC met on 6 occasions and there have been 5 brief PCC meetings following Morning Service to discuss matters that required more urgent decisions. There have been no resignations from the PCC during the year and we welcomed the Rev. Anthony Smith, Curate, as a member after his arrival in the Parish in June.

I was unable to attend meetings for three to four months following an accident abroad and a long period of hospitalisation and recovery, and am very grateful to those members of the PCC who covered my responsibilities in my absence.

Planning for the building of a WC and a new lighting scheme, has represented a considerable element of the work of the PCC over the year and is likely to continue as very important and exciting tasks during the coming year. Participating in the Diocesan Pilgrimage 2020 plans has also been a significant part of our work, together with ongoing discussions as to how we can use our gifts and building to spread the Good News further afield.

# CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

## General

During 2019 Whitworth Church was open every Sunday morning for Holy Communion, every Monday for Morning Prayer and the first Sunday of the month from April to September for Evening Prayer.

Occasional services were held for Palm Sunday (including a procession from Whitworth Hall to church), Easter Day Dawn Service, Remembrance Day, Carol Service, Relaxed Crib Service and Christmas Eve Communion. No Harvest Praise was held on 6th October due to inclement weather.

In June we welcomed our new curate the Rev. Anthony Smith and his wife Eline.

Services were also held for 13 Baptisms, 12 Weddings and 2 Funerals which were all fewer than in 2018, in particular weddings.

Other gatherings in church included the Argus Singers concert and on Easter Monday the church was open for visitors with refreshments and entertainment for children. On August Bank Holiday Monday a Teddy Bear's picnic was held with refreshments and activities.

Taste of Christmas was held again on the first Sunday in December.

Hugh Massey (architect) continues to investigate the provision of toilet facilities at the church with alternative proposals for access from within the church and from outside. The PCC agreed on providing access from outside the church and Hugh was instructed to develop this proposal and a report is awaited.

A sub-committee of the PCC set up to consider the requirements for a scheme to improve the lighting both inside and outside the church selected Trinity Energy Management Ltd.(Astley Fenwick), following a competitive tender, to develop a design, a draft of which has been received.

The potentially dangerous wall at the entrance to the church access lane, which was reported to Durham County Highways Department in November 2017, is still unresolved.

Whitworth Church joined with St. Pauls for Samara's Aid appeal.

Whitworth Church joined with St. Pauls for Spennymoor Food Bank.

Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal held in November yielded 30 boxes.

Charlene Perret was confirmed by Bishop Paul at St. Cuthbert's Church Etherly on 18h July.

Matt, Anthony and Kath Hall attended the Waymark Conference on 12-13 October.

Preparations were started for the Way of Life Pilgrimage from Gainford to Durham Cathedral which starts in April 2020 and will call at Whitworth Church.

An application was made to the War Graves Commission to supply and erect a plaque indicating there is a war grave in the churchyard.

The Churchwardens June and Wayne were sworn in for another year at a service in St. Catherine's Church Crook on 14th May by the Archdeacon of Auckland the Ven. Rick Simpson.

### **Repairs, Renewals and Inspections**

5th May & 26th July    Roof Slates Replaced  
Ferryhill Roofing Company

13th May                Fire Extinguishers Serviced  
Peterlee Fire Co.

25th September    PAT Testing of Portable Appliances  
Damascus Road

2nd October            Organ Tuned            Harrison & Harrison

16th October           Boiler Serviced        David Crawford

November            Gravel to Car Park laid

December           Replacement Christmas Crib Figures  
purchased.

The 1722 Communion Church Plate consisting of Chalice, Patten, Flagon and Dish are held in Durham Cathedral.

All registers and records apart from the current ones are deposited in Durham County Records Office. There were no additions or removals.

The Churchwardens would like to thank Matt for his guidance during the year, all those who generously give their time to clean the church, Kath for flowers and also Tom McEneny for all his hard work behind the scenes.

Wayne Rhodes

June Wilson

Churchwardens

February 2020

## **CURATE'S REPORT**

On Sunday 30 June 2019, I was ordained as a deacon in Durham Cathedral. This marked the beginning of my curacy in Spennymoor and Whitworth. Eline and I had spent the previous three years living in Durham, where I was studying theology at Cranmer Hall. As we weren't moving far, Eline was able to keep her job as a technician in Newcastle University. We were made very welcome, and have enjoyed settling into Spennymoor and the curate's house in Middlestone Moor.

By the end of 2019, I had gained a lot of experience of parish life. I had taken numerous services and preached on many occasions. I had taken my first baptisms and my first funerals. I had helped with school assemblies and welcomed crowds of children into the church for visits and events. I survived my first Christmas as an ordained minister. And I took part in the Spennymoor Gala in July! It has been a pleasure to get to know people from both parishes, and to learn more about what God is doing in and through the churches. I have been very grateful to be able to get a feel for normal parish life, with all its joy and activity. (I won't mention 2020 for now!)

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT for 2019

The synod meets at various churches within our Deanery, throughout the year.

Anyone who is interested can attend these meetings, although they will not have a vote. Our current Synod representatives are Mrs Christine Rhodes and Mrs Patricia Wright, who do have voting rights.

The Synod Representatives have attended four meetings during 2019;

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at St. Clare's, Newton Aycliffe

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at St. Peter's, Byers Green

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at St. Andrew's,

Spennymoor

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at St. Andrew's, Bishop

Auckland

The meetings begin with opening worship followed by

- Minutes from previous meeting
- Matters arising
- Treasurer's Report
- Area Dean's Notices

At **February's** meeting the guest speaker was Alasdair Price who spoke about vocation and opportunities and the various roles within the ministry.

Also discussed at this meeting was the Deanery Plan, Safeguarding, Waymark 2019, Resourcing Churches – update.

Reports were given on

- The Diocesan Synod
- Deanery Leadership Team
- News from the Parishes

At **May's** meeting the guest speaker was Nathan Bruce. The following items were discussed, update to the Deanery Plan, Parish Share and an update to Resourcing Churches.

Reports were given on

- The Diocesan Synod
- Deanery Leadership Team
- News from the Parishes

At **September's** meeting the following items were discussed, Deanery Plan, Parish Share and Resourcing Churches.

Reports were given on

- News from the Parishes

At **November's** meeting the guest speaker was the Reverend Rick Simpson, Archdeacon of Auckland, who gave an inspirational talk about his story of faith and how he became a priest.

The following items were discussed, update to the Deanery Plan and the Parish Share.



Reports were given on

- Deanery Leadership Team
- News from the Parishes

Please note that November's minutes are not yet available nor is the date of the next meeting. Current copies of agendas and minutes are held in a blue folder and can be found at the back of the church. They are for everyone to read but we ask that they are not removed from the church and are left complete and in order. Thank you.

*Reported by Chris Rhodes and Pat Wright*

## SPENNYMOOR GROUP COUNCIL REPORT

The Group Ministry consists of the following Churches;

St Pauls Spennymoor, Whithworth Parish Church, St Peter's Byers Green, St David's Tudhoe, St John's Kirk Merrington and St Bartholomew's Sunderland Bridge.

Representatives from each church within the Group met on 3 occasions during the year to discuss a range of topics

- Group Training
- Communion by Extension
- Safeguarding
- Dementia Friendly Churches
- Group Social Action.

In addition to these the Group held its AGM in May at St Paul's Spennymoor, combining the brief formalities with a joyous Praise Service.

In November we ended our year with a peaceful and thoughtful Celtic Communion Service at St John's Kirk Merrington.

During the year we said farewell to the Rev Caroline Friswell ( St Peter's Byers Green ) who due to

retirement stepped down from her duties, as well as  
Charlie-Scott King who stepped down from  
Chairperson due to leaving the area.

*Stuart Wright*  
*Kath Hall*  
*Whitworth Representatives.*

## **SPENNYMOOR AND DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT**

In 2019 Spennymoor and District Churches Together continued in its usual routine. Jean Thompson continued as chair, Janet Richardson as Treasurer and Anna Smith as Secretary. The year's programme included the Lent course, Pentecost service, Spennymoor Gala, quiz night and carol singing at residential homes, ASDA and Wetherspoons.

Meetings were held every other month and the main areas of business were the planning of services and events, the construction of the Love Spenny heart sculpture (due to be erected during the summer of 2020), and reviewing the effectiveness of Churches Together activities.

*Rev. Matt Tarling*

## WHITWORTH PARISH HOUSEGROUP REPORT

The Housegroup has continued to meet throughout the year and has discussed a variety of topics linked to both Old and New Testament of the Bible.

We have read and discussed, in no priority or order, the following topics.

The Servant King (Mark's Gospel Chapters 9 to 16 )

God's Big Picture (Looking at all 66 books of the Bible )

The Beatitudes (The eight lessons that Jesus gave at the Sermon on the Mount,)

Reading Matthew's Gospel Chapter 5 verses 1-12

The Book of Jonah

Famine and Fortune (The Book of Ruth).

Although a small group we meet with the aim to understand the Bible.

To learn from each other through listening to the different versions of the Bible that each one of us reads from.

To discuss what it means to each one of us and how this impacts on our everyday lives through discussion and sharing experiences.

As a group we continue to build upon the fellowship that we experience with one another.

New members are more than welcome and encouraged.

We meet at 15 Marske Way, Spennymoor on agreed  
Wednesday Evenings commencing at 6.45pm.

*Stuart Wright*  
*Housegroup Leader*