

Jesus Church.
in the
Parish of Troutbeck.



**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**
for the year ended 31 December 2014

Incumbent:

The Revd. David M. Wilmot.
St. Mary`s Vicarage
Ambleside Road
Windermere.
Cumbria LA23 1BA

Jesus Church Troutbeck

Annual Meeting Agenda

in the Institute Reading Room on Tuesday, 24th March, 2015 at 7.00pm.

Opening Prayer & Welcome.

1. The Vestry Meeting

1. Appointment of Churchwardens for the coming year
2. Resolution Relating to Tenure of Churchwardens
3. Village Institute Representation

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last year's meeting (Tuesday 8th April, 2014)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. The Electoral Roll
5. The Audited Accounts
6. Reports.
 - a. Churchwardens
 - b. PCC Report
 - c. Deanery Synod
 - d. Fabric
 - e. Troutbeck Village Association
7. Elections:
 - a. PCC.
 - b. Independent Examiner of Accounts (Auditor)
 - c. Appointment of PCC Representative to the Troutbeck Village Association
 - d. Approve Safeguarding Policy
8. Vicar's Remarks
9. Any Other Business

Closing Prayer

3. Parochial Church Council Meeting

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Will PCC Members please remain behind for five minutes.

Agenda:

1. Appointment of Hon Secretary.
2. Appointment of Lay Chairman.
3. Appointment of Hon. Treasurer.
4. Appointment of Standing Committee
5. Resolve: That the Accounts & Report be affixed at the church noticeboard for TWO weeks.
6. Resolve: That the Accounts and Report be submitted to the Archdeacon at her forthcoming visitation.
7. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th April at 7pm

From the Vicar

If you asked me what things have stood out in my experience of the Church over the past forty years I would certainly point to the number of times I have heard people call for the Church to be `relevant`.

Putting it simply, since the 1960`s (if not before), the continual cry has been for the Church to join the `modern age`. The era in which we have lived has been the benchmark and we as Christian people have constantly been exhorted to join in (what we know to be) a never-ending task of trying to keep up and adapt ourselves to what this ever-changing society finds acceptable. If we don`t then, the story goes, we shall become irrelevant, a museum piece and totally out of touch with the `real` world.

This narrative, as we might call it seems so obvious and so reasonable that it is allowed to pass without question and all the while Christian congregations the length and breadth of the country argue ferociously for example about whether their worship `style` is attractive enough and scurry about deploying the latest marketing techniques in an attempt to attract `customers` and appear as relevant as they can.

But what if it`s *not* our task to be relevant in this way? What if it`s not our task to meet everyone`s needs, no matter how sincerely felt? What if it`s not our task to underwrite and endorse lifestyles and views of the world which (it seems patently obvious) are at odds with the way of Christ? What if we have an altogether different task?

I want to suggest that for generations and perhaps for the sake of an easy life the Church (lacking in confidence and unsure of the resources granted by God`s Holy Spirit) has far too easily accommodated itself to the mores and patterns of our western, market-driven way of life and in our day we are seeing the fruits of this. As one writer put it,

“We offer unbelievers little, except perhaps more and better reasons to persist in their unbelief, when they see little that distinguishes the People of God from the rest of the world. What would happen if unbelievers looking at the Body of Christ were given the opportunity to see not a pale reflection of themselves but an embodied question mark?” Philip Kenneson

In other words, our task is not one of making the Christian faith relevant to the desires, aspirations and preferences which `modern` people have but instead, to question them. Our task is not to make people a little nicer; to provide `religious` goods and services which reassure them that God approves of their lifestyle choices. Our task is not to give out pseudo-religious advice designed to make people feel better about themselves.

On the contrary our task is to proclaim. The Good News of Jesus Christ is precisely that: NEWS. News of what God *has done, is doing* and *will do* to transform and remake his world.... and our lives into the bargain.

We who are Baptized, we who are the Church are called to be what another writer has called “a sign, a foretaste and a herald” of God’s life in our midst; which Jesus called the Kingdom.

This then is our challenge: to recover confidence in God’s power at work within us; to become a `sign- a demonstration of what real living looks like; a Foretaste: a community in which all can experience God’s presence first hand and a Herald: a community where the Words of Christ and his compassionate touch will be known.

There is much talk these days of the re-shaping of the Church for Mission. Holding on to those three words: Sign, Herald and Foretaste may help keep us on the right track.

This short report documents some of the ways we are currently seeking to be faithful to our ever faithful God. We record our deep gratitude to all who contribute to the building up of our life and witness to Christ in this place.

David Wilmot

Introduction:

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Jesus Church, Troutbeck has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Revd. David M. Wilmot in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral social and ecumenical.

PCC Membership:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Vicar: | The Revd David Wilmot (Chairman) | |
| Churchwardens: | Mr. Robert Smith | |
| | Miss J. Bland | |
| Parish Missioner: | The Revd Brian Streeter | |
| Reader: | Mr. Christopher Bradbury | |
| Pastoral Assistant: | Mr. Leonard Lambert | |
| Elected Members: | Mr. Christopher Poulson | (Vice Chairman) |
| | Mr. G. Brown | (Treasurer) |
| | Mrs. J. Dootson | (Secretary) |

C. Bradbury, G Brown, J Dootson, P Fothergill, P. Taylor. S. Taylor. R Hopwood, G Howarth, C Poulson J. Todd and F Tattersall. J. Mitchell.
Judith Dootson represented Jesus Church on the Deanery Synod.
The PCC met 7 times during the year.

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens, the Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer. It has authority to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Church Attendance:

The average *Sunday* attendance during the year was 35. During the year 8 Marriage Ceremonies were held and 9 Funerals. There was 1 Baptism this year.

4. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was completely revised in February 2013. A complete revision is carried out every 6 years. This year (2015) with updates to membership there are currently 54 members on the Electoral Roll as at March 2015. The Electoral Roll indicates membership of a particular congregation and it is the parish's register of electors; it is a list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where elections take place for the representatives of the Church Council and the Deanery Synod. The system of the Electoral Roll is intended to enable Christian people to feel that they are in touch with Church as a whole and can play their part in decision making.

Carol Burrage Electoral Roll Officer

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Held in the Institute on Tuesday 8th April 2014

Present: The Vicar (Chair), Rev Brian Streeter (Missioner), Joan Bland, Robert

Smith, Geoff Brown, Judy Dootson, Christopher Bradbury, Mary Bradbury, Jan Mitchell, Leonard Lambert, Rosemary Hopwood, Gill Howarth.

Apologies: Judith Cochrane

The Vestry Meeting

1. The Vicar thanked Joan Bland and Robert Smith for all their work during 2013. They were nominated for re-election for 2014 and this unanimously approved.
2. Jesus Church re-affirmed its opt out of the 6 year rule.
3. Village Institute: Election of Trustees and members:-
Protocol as set out in the Trust Documents had not been followed in previous years, the Record had now been set straight and names were ratified as follows:-
 - a. Election of Committee Members 2014-2016 – Mr J.R. Westmorland, Mrs M. Liddell, Mr. P. Simpson.
 - b. Trustees of Troutbeck Institute 2014 – Mr JD Scott, Mrs J.Cochrane, Miss S. Black, Mr. W.H.Allen, Mr. A. Mitchinson, Mrs R. Halliday, Mr. R.M. Simpson.
 - c. Election of Trustee to till vacancy due to the resignation of Mrs E. Winder – Mr. M.K. Guy was elected.
The Meeting confirmed the election of the Trustees, all were in favour.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The Minutes of the AGM held on 18th March 2013 were approved. The Vicar thanked Judy Dootson for the records, Lynda Durrell for the Electoral Roll, Geoff Brown for the Accounts and the support given by Robert Smith and David Fell for auditing the accounts. He thanked all parishioners for their generosity during the year.

1. Finance

- Geoff Brown asked for approval of the accounts which had already been circulated but not audited by David Fell the External Examiner. The committee approved the accounts subject to the Examiners' confirmation.
- The Treasurer explained the deficit of £5,213 in funds was due to the beneficial appointment of a Parish Missioner and pointed out that overall funds had increased by £25K during the year.
- Due to Tower repairs the Treasurer asked for approval of £90K to be transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund.
- Due to the use of professional gardeners for maintaining the Churchyard, he asked for £10K to be transferred from unrestricted funds to the Churchyard Fund.
- The transfers were approved by the members.
- The Treasurer confirmed he would contact the Law Society with regard to the outstanding payments due on the Nicholson bequest having already taken all reasonable steps to finalize payment from the solicitors.

2. Churchwardens

Tower Repairs

- Robert Smith reported that Pattison Builders would start work on the tower repairs in May. The belfry had been cleared of debris and repaired.

3. Deanery Synod

- Judy Dootson had no further additions to her report but Geoff Brown as Parish Offer Co-ordinator stated that Parish Offers were in the worst position for the last five years and income levels were falling. Jesus Church was in a good position but some parishes in the Deanery were not so fortunate.

4. Parish Missioner

- Brian Streeter thanked Jesus Church for his job and was thanked in return by all present for his work in village and church together with his positive presence at Windermere School.
- Brian also explained the part Jesus Church would play in the Village Walks project to take place for the first time during the May Bank Holiday together with the Village Association and alternate with the Garden Trail.

5. Village Association

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- Geoff Brown is the Chair of the Association and Rosemary Hopwood is the representative of Jesus Church.

6. Parish Magazine

- The Vicar thanked Judith Cochrane for her wonderful work on the Magazine.

Parochial Church Council Meeting

The following persons were elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council

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|--------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Vicar | The Reverend D. Wilmot (Chairman) | | |
| Reader | Mr. C. Bradbury (Lay Vice-Chair) | | |
| Pastoral Assistant | Mr. L. Lambert | | |
| Parish Missioner | Rev. Brian Streeter | | |
| Churchwardens | Mr. R. Smith. Miss B.J. Bland | | |
| Elected members | Mr. G. Brown (Treasurer) | | |
| | Mrs. J. Dootson (Secretary & Deanery Synod) | | |
| Mr. P. Fothergill | Mrs. G. Howarth | Mrs. R. Hopwood | Miss J. Todd |
| Mr. F. Tattersall | Mr. S. Taylor | Mrs. P. Taylor | Mrs. J. Mitchell |

All were in favour

David Fell was re-elected as Independent Financial Examiner.

Meetings:

Standing Committee – St. Mary's 8th May

PCC St. Mary's – 3rd June. At this meeting we will be looking at the Bishop's Action Plan for the coming year, concentrating on playing our part in the life of the village and serving as best we can.

Other points to note: Jesus Church is signed up to the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults plan.

Sales of booklets, crosses etc. up from £907 in 2012 to £1,600 during 2013.

Thanks to David Wilmot – Christopher Bradbury the Lay Vice-Chair gave thanks from all members to David Wilmot for all he has done for Jesus Church during the year. The meeting ended with the Grace at 7.58 p.m.

6. Audited Accounts & Treasurer's Report

The Accounts which form the companion document to this Report have been most ably overseen by our Treasurer Geoff Brown and Examined by Mr. David Fell. We extend our deep gratitude to them and to all who generously give to our common life and mission.

7. Reports

a. Churchwardens Report:

The Annual Parochial Meeting was held in The Institute on Tuesday, 8th April 2014 when Jan Mitchell and Judith Todd were elected as additional members of the PCC.

On Palm Sunday we had the Passion Reading according to St. Luke. Nails were distributed as a reminder and invitation to all the events happening in Holy Week.

On Good Friday a 'Service of Reflection' was taken by Rev. Brian Streeter and assisted by Reader, Christopher Bradbury. It was a very moving Service – the large, wooden cross had been constructed by Brian.

There was a large congregation for a very joyful Service on Easter Sunday in a beautifully decorated Church. The congregation renewed their Baptismal Vows; the Vicar and Parish Missioner each received a simnel cake as a token of our appreciation and all the congregation received a chocolate.

To coincide with the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, Ian Jones produced a booklet about the 98 men and 1 lady from Troutbeck and the community who fought for their country between 1914 and 1918. The booklet is available from Church priced £3.

On 22nd June the Pets Blessing Service was held on the recreation ground. Mrs. Shery Holdsworth from Windermere Manor gave a talk about guide dogs and judged the various competitions. Homemade refreshments were served by ladies from Troutbeck Women's Institute.

Songs of Praise were held on 27th July. Over the previous few weeks everyone had been invited to vote for their favourite six hymns. The most popular ten were sung

On Monday, 4th August, at 12 noon a short Service was held to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of WW1.

During autumn Teaching and Learning Sessions were held. The subject was 'Faith in the Second Half of Life'.

On 28th September we held the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Thanksgiving for the completion of the remedial work on the Church Tower. The following day our gifts were taken to Manna House in Kendal. The Harvest Supper was held in the Institute on 3rd October when we were entertained by Father Kevin.

The Remembrance Day Service was held on 9th November conducted by Rev Brian Streeter and Christopher Bradbury. Rev Donald Pankhurst preached the sermon. Peter Lever was the British Legion Standard Bearer and wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion and Women's Institute.

The Christmas Fair took place at the beginning of December in the Institute when £520 was raised.

Once again a successful Parish Dinner was held at Broad Oaks. The Speaker was the Rt. Rev. Robert Freeman, Bishop of Penrith. He regaled us with some amusing seasonal statistics interwoven with the serious facts of the Christmas story. The Carol Service and Christmas Services were well attended & enjoyed by all.

Joan Bland Churchwarden

b. PCC Report:

2014 was a momentous year for the PCC as repairs to the Church Tower and roof were undertaken and completed during the summer months. The project was finished in time for the Harvest thanksgiving and thanks were given for the refurbishment of the tower which will hopefully withstand the elements for the next two hundred years.

Reports from Brian Streeter our Parish Missioner for the past two years have been received by the PCC with thanks and great approval for his work in the Church and Village.

The Mission Action Plan has been progressed and monitored and major events such as the Animal Blessing, Harvest, Carols and Christmas dinner have been celebrated and enjoyed by both Church and Village, together with our first Songs of Praise which was enthusiastically supported on a beautiful summer evening.

Judy Dootson PCC Secretary

c. Deanery Synod

The main decisions the Deanery Synod has taken in 2014 have been in support of the Bishop's Mission and Action Plan designed to support the work of the Church towards 2020 when lack of finance and a fall in available clergy numbers is anticipated. The Bishop is working towards a more ecumenically based church with Parishes working in clusters with like-minded churches to share Clergy, buildings and resources and co-operate to make a sustainable and viable Church for the future.

Judy Dootson Deanery Synod Representative

d. Fabric Report

The main focus with regard to the fabric of Jesus Church during 2014 was the Clock Tower. Recent Quinquennial reports had highlighted major diagonal cracks on all faces of the Tower. All the pointing, which had been carried out using cement mortar was in a poor state allowing water ingress which manifested itself with wet internal plasterwork and mould above the main entrance door. Our Surveyor, Paul Grout, produced very detailed specification requirements and the work was put out to tender. Following this process, we appointed Pattinsons builders to carry out the work.

The whole Tower was enclosed in plastic sheeting and work commenced after Easter. An excellent, detailed, folder of the work involved was produced by Ian Jones and is well worth a look. Nigel Tullett and Pattinsons carried out the work to a very high standard, far higher than the original and all the stonework was re pointed using a lime-based material which allows it to 'breathe'. Whilst all this work was being completed we also attended to many other items which had been listed in the Quinquennial reports. In conclusion we can say that the Church as a whole is in good order and we are eternally thankful to the many donations in recent years that have made it possible to carry out this major work.

Robert Smith Churchwarden

e. Troutbeck Village Association

1. There are currently 8 members on the committee (minimum requirement) and it is hoped to encourage more people to join.
2. Our Treasurer reported a balance of £4,701 in the bank account.
3. The Village Garden Trial will take place on Monday 25th May, with 10 gardens open to the public. Money raised from this event, will be divided between the Village Institute, First Responders & Village Association.
4. Jan Ashton has kindly agreed to be Village Representative for invasive species.
5. A new cable is to be installed at Townend, by BT for Broadband. It is hoped the village will also benefit.
6. The village snow plough has been working well over winter and Cumbria County Council have agreed to provide payments for any gritting as necessary.
7. The National Trust have cleared some of the local footpaths that were overgrown. More work needs to be done.
8. The Village Association will hold their AGM on Monday 11th May in the Institute, with the usual open invitation to all residents. Cheese and wine will be served at 7.30pm

Rosemary Hopwood Troutbeck Village Association