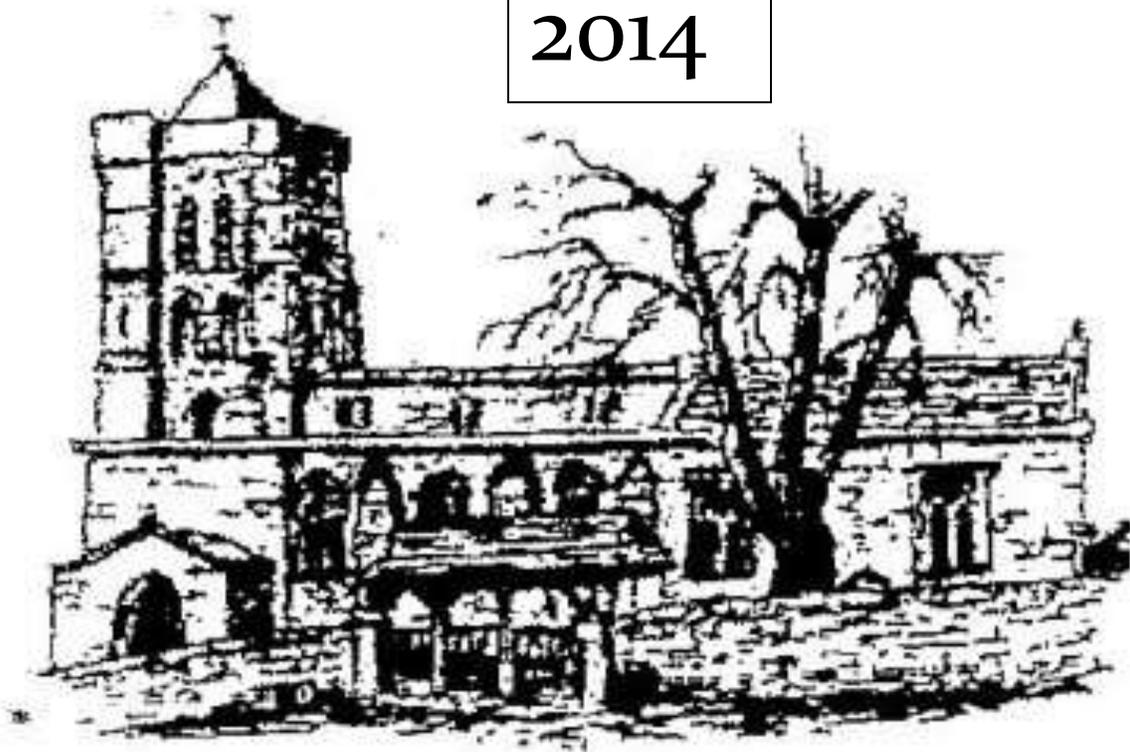


# *ANNUAL REPORT*

2014



*St. Peter's*  
*HEVERSHAM*

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# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC FOR 2014**

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## **1. General**

### **Background**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter's Heversham for 2014.

St. Peter's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in Charge, the Revd. Susan Wilson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also co-operates with the Parish of St. Thomas, Milnthorpe, with whom it has been linked since 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1992 and united since 1<sup>st</sup> November 1993. The Council also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church of St. Peter's and The Old School (Hall).

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.), or co-opted, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-Charge:           The Revd. Susan Wilson, Chairman

Wardens:                    Mrs. Susan Mellor ( Lay Chair)  
                                  Mrs. Jill Shaw

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:  
                                  Mrs. Linda Cooper  
                                  Mr. Tony Hesmondhalgh  
                                  Mr. Peter Clarke

Elected Members: Mr Martin Fletcher  
Mr Tom Grindey  
Mr George Handley  
Mr John Mellor  
Miss Sylvia Read  
Mrs Gill Rodd  
Mrs Christine Thomas  
Mrs Doreen Wadsworth

Secretary Mr. Peter Clarke

Treasurer Mrs Sue Mellor, Mrs Jill Shaw,  
Finance Administrator Mrs Ellie Judson  
Fees Administrator Miss Sylvia Read  
Gift Aid Administrator Miss Joan Anderton

Electoral Roll Officer Mrs. Ros Barrell

### **Clergy and Readers Team for the Benefice**

Priest in Charge The Revd. Susan E. Wilson

Retired Priests with Permission to Officiate  
The Revd. Colin Honour  
The Revd. Ron Rutter  
The Revd. Bob Wilkinson

Readers: Mr. Roger Bingham,  
Mrs. Linda Cooper,  
Professor Anne Garden

Reader Emeritus Mrs Dorothy Maudsley

Reader in Training Mrs Susan O'Loughlin

My grateful thanks go to each of the retired clergy and readers for all they do to support the worshipping life of St. Peter's and St. Thomas'. I appreciate the ways in which they have been willing to do what has been needed to maintain the wide service provision that is so valued in this parish.

### **Committees**

The PCC has met six times during the year.

#### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It has met regularly between PCC meetings.

Other committees are appointed for specific tasks as and when required.

## **Church Attendance**

The membership of the church for 2014 stands at 114 parishioners. The details of the roll are available in church.

The size of worshipping congregations varies according to the style of service.

The congregation at the Sunday 8a.m. BCP Communion Service, held jointly with Milnthorpe, has dropped during the year and now averages about seven worshippers, with Evening Prayer continuing to draw a congregation of about 10. The monthly afternoon BCP Communion Service followed by tea, attracts between 8 and 12 people.

The 9.30 am. Common Worship Parish Communion Services have an average-worshipping congregation of 50. Although we have gained new members, some of our long-standing members have sadly died and others, through ill health, can no longer regularly worship with us.

All Age Worship service numbers vary and, as they often include festival celebrations, can attract considerably larger congregations.

A new informal evening service, 'Open to God' has run on the first Sunday of the month this year and been very much appreciated by those who come. The congregation is usually between 15 and 20.

Messy Church, a very informal gathering, involving teaching, art and crafts, games and food, took place monthly until the summer, on a Sunday afternoon and was attended by parents, grandparents and children. I am hugely grateful to the team who worked so hard preparing for this. Numbers varied greatly according to the time of year and weather, but those who came enjoyed it very much!

After the very successful summer Holiday Club, it was decided that more children could be reached through taking 'Open the Book' into the primary schools in Heversham and Milnthorpe, than by continuing Messy Church. This has therefore been put to one side, whilst the very committed Open the Book Team have been going into both schools each week, where this input is highly valued by the children and the schools. It is hoped that the seeds sown through this will take root and help in children's understanding of God's plan for humankind.

This year has also seen the continuation of Teaching and Tea. This takes place for an hour on a Sunday afternoon and a regular group meets each month. Wide-ranging topics have generated much thought and discussion and have certainly helped in growing and maturing faith.

Attendances at Festivals are higher than for regular Sunday worship.

Joint services with St. Thomas' Milnthorpe are held two or three times a year and on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Heversham, Milnthorpe and Levens continue, where possible, to join for a united service, although opportunities have been less this year, as a number of fifth Sundays fell on major feast days and worship then took place in our own parishes.

**The Revd. S. E. Wilson**

## **2. Review of the Year by Priest in Charge and PCC Chair**

My sincere thanks go to the many people who have worked hard during the year to nurture the worshipping life of the community and who ensured that all ran smoothly in the church during this period. I am extremely grateful for all that was done by retired clergy and readers, officers of the church and members of the PCC.

After a very courageous battle with cancer, Elizabeth Bennett, one of our Readers, who had contributed so much to the life of the churches in many different and creative ways, died. Her loss has been felt very keenly.

The full PCC met six times during the year, with high levels of attendance and good discussion at meetings. The Standing committee met between PCC meetings and reports of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed.

In 2013, the PCC proposed the creation of a flexible space in the north aisle of the church, by not replacing seven pews that were removed in order to renew some lime plaster. It followed comments from members of the congregation that the flexible open space was of more use than the largely unused pews at that side of the church. The new area could be used in many beneficial ways; by children, the music group and for displays of information about organisations supported by St Peter's charitable giving.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee - a statutory body that gives advice on architecture, archaeology, art and history of places of worship and considers applications - approved the plans without conditions and the PCC applied to the Diocesan Consistory Court for the necessary faculty.

Two members of the congregation have exercised their right to request a court hearing in respect of the removal of the Victorian pews. For this reason, instead of it being dealt with as a paper process, the Court will hold a formal hearing in 2015.

At the hearing, the Chancellor of the Diocese will review the cases presented by the PCC and the objectors. He will then decide whether to grant the faculty.

As a church family, we have recognised the need for all views to be considered about this issue. The process demonstrates the Christian love and understanding we have for one another. The congregation has been asked to pray for continuing unity and that, whatever the outcome of the PCC's application, we can focus on the church's continuing worship, witness and mission.

In looking at what is currently happening in our benefice, there is much going on, for which we give thanks. As a benefice, we are now part of Churches Together in Cumbria. A number of successful ecumenical events have taken place, with members of the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Churches working well together, which is a great encouragement.

The church's mission at Heversham, 'to build a strong, healthy, outward-looking community, living in relationship with God, through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit' continues to drive all we seek to do. The two key strands of our vision are, 'to be open to God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit- in our lives and in our communities; and in our personal discipleship to seek to encourage each other to learn, mature and be renewed. This means that we are, with all other Anglican Churches in this diocese, striving to grow disciples of all ages.

Our Mission Action Plan is one tool through which we have tried to enable vision to become reality.

## 1. Mission Action Plan

The **Mission Action Planning Team** with the support of members of the congregation and community has completed almost all of what we set out to do in late 2012.

### Progress in achieving the goals of our 2013 – 2016 Mission Action Plan.

(KEY: **Bold Print = Achieved**)

*I.*

*To establish more effective communication through introducing-*

- **Website and Links – Achieved 2013**
- **Newcomers Meals – Achieved 2013**
- **Meal for those who had been bereaved since 2012 – Achieved 2014**
- **Welcome Packs – Achieved 2014** – distributed to all on the electoral roll and available for visitors in church
- **Welcome Card – Achieved 2014** – in the pews for newcomers
- Outreach Packs – **the welcome packs (and flowers or a cake) have been given by our Street Wardens on behalf of the church, to all who have moved into the parish.**

St. Peter's website is widely used. Both weddings and baptisms have happened as a result of people looking for information on the website. It has improved communication within the congregation and with the wider community.

My thanks go to Ellie Judson for her hard work in keeping the site up to date and relevant.

If people want to find out about St. Peter's and all that goes on in our church life, there are now clear mechanisms in place.

*2.*

*To enrich the spiritual lives of those worshipping at St Peter's through -*

- One annual sermon series – 2013, Grace – **Achieved 2013**
- Courses – One bi-annual course on Christian basics. – **Achieved 2014 through 'Christianity Explored.'**
- Two annual Discipleship Courses: 'In His Name' & 'Acts' - **Achieved 2013**
- Growing house group attendance – **some new folk have joined housegroups this year**
- Introducing a monthly *Open to God* service - **Achieved 2013 & Ongoing**
- Developing the Communion Praise Service – **using WoW as a focus – we had some inspiring input from charities whom we support through the tithe e.g. MAF, Flame International, Manna House**

- Introducing a **Parish Weekend at Home - Achieved March 2014** – a very successful weekend, led by Bishop Robert, was held at The Athenaeum with 53 people taking part.
- Spiritual gifts being identified and used – some used in small group gatherings.
- Encouraging the reading of the relevant lectionary gospel each year. (Luke 2013) **Introduced – but impact not measured**
- Introduction of special services such as a Celtic Communion – **Achieved 2013 and Ongoing**

This is a critical area of our church life as we seek to grow in our knowledge of the Christian faith as individuals and as a church.

It has been good to see people seeking to grow their understanding of the Christian faith through coming to 'Christianity Explored', or the Sunday 'Teaching and Tea'. Membership of Housegroups is good, but it would be wonderful to see an increase in the number of people being part of a housegroup, in order that we can build relationships and support each other in our spiritual growth.

Services that have had speakers from the different organisations that we support through the tithe continued as part of second Sunday services on a bi monthly basis where possible.

The spring Parish Weekend at home was very successful and a future one is planned for 2016. In 2015, a Parish Weekend Away at Wydale Hall in Yorkshire, has been planned, which Bishop Graham, the previous Bishop of Carlisle will lead.

We continued to have a wide range of services each month, occasionally using the newly introduced Celtic liturgy. Sometimes, hearing different phraseology can shine new light on the meaning of our liturgy.

Through this action plan, much has been already been put in place to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment. As we seek to continue to mature in our faith as individuals and see the evidence of this in the worshipping life of our community, many of the opportunities introduced through the current action plan will be ongoing.

3.

***To be more effective in our interaction with the Community through -***

New External Church Signage - **Achieved 2013**– new board in place

Enhancing the porch notice board – **Achieved 2013**

Developing new ways of linking with Dallam School - **Begun and ongoing**

Enhancing the Church's Christian input into Heversham St Peter's School through such things as **Open the Book – Begun and ongoing** A committed team are going into the primary schools in Heversham and Milnthorpe each week.

Develop Church / Community Links with local interest / community groups

In the summer of 2014 it was decided after much thought, discussion and prayer, to 'park' Messy Church whilst we established a team who would take 'Open the Book' into school. Nearly 20 people are involved in acting, making costumes and providing props for this. It is a

very time consuming, but hugely worthwhile work, as we interact with children and staff and share something of the Good News with many who are not involved in the local church.

Through two school assemblies, over 200 children a week are shown an exciting dramatisation of a Bible story, given time to reflect on a theme from the story and then led in prayer.

The hugely successful summer holiday club also drew in many children with little previous connection with church.

Relationships with the senior staff of Dallam are developing well. This year, as well as Dallam School holding a second very successful Prize Giving Evening at St. Peter's, with the church packed to capacity and holding their usual Christmas Concert in church, a Bonfire Party was arranged by the church for the boarders. With a huge bonfire, hot food, cakes and drinks, this was a fun evening, truly appreciated, which hopefully will lead to further opportunities to engage with the boarders in 2015.

We now have Street Wardens in place for each road, or part of a road, in Heversham and Leasgill. I am very grateful that they are acting as eyes and ears for the church and take responsibility for letting me know if someone new moves into the village, to welcome newcomers and to inform the pastoral care team if people in our two communities need help. I find their help invaluable.

We know that the church's interaction with members of our community and organisations in the village is so important and this will continue to be a focus, long past the 'sell by date' of this current Mission Action Plan.

As you can see, much has been achieved, for which my thanks go to all who have helped in any way to make ideas, realities. The plan was initially a three-year plan, but almost everything identified on it has been achieved or has become part of the life of the church. Following the congregational input during a service towards the end of the year, at which we reviewed our current plan and celebrated our successes, ideas put forward then and during the week following, will be incorporated where possible into the next Mission Action Plan which will run from the autumn of 2015.

## **2. Ministry**

i)

The clergy of the benefice, apart from me, are now all retired, with permission to officiate and along with Readers, provide valuable support to ministry, mostly on a Sunday, for which I am grateful.

In each four-week month at St. Peter's there have been the following services:-  
3 (BCP) Holy Communion Services, ( 2 at 8 am and one at 3pm on a Tuesday),  
2 Common Worship Parish Communions,  
1 less formal Parish Communion,  
1 midweek Common Worship communion,  
1 All Age Worship service,  
1 Evening prayer with hymns (Lay led) and  
1 informal service – Open to God.

Once every six weeks I lead the Sunday afternoon Holy Communion Service in the chapel and on hospital radio, at Westmorland General Hospital. My thanks go here to the team, which supports in wheeling people to the Chapel from the wards and also giving bedside Communion, whilst I offer Communion in the Chapel.

ii)

In the autumn, the Diocesan Synod approved the strategy for Mission and Ministry and initial discussions have taken place with the Anglican and Methodist churches around the Kent Estuary.

The Kent Estuary churches continue to work together informally wherever possible and will probably form the core of an ecumenical Mission Cluster.

iii)

This year we have continued to encourage each member of the congregation to use their natural and spiritual gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ at St. Peter's, through being part of teams. My sincere thanks go to all who are involved, with appreciation for the commitment of time and energy required.

If you have not had the opportunity to join a team, please do prayerfully consider where you might become involved.

(iv)

Sunday prayer ministry continues to take place in the Levens Chapel and in the body of the church for those who request it. Individual longer-term prayer ministry continues to be available for those who wish it. Due to illness, age and death, the prayer ministry team has become considerably smaller.

It is encouraging to see the prayer chain being well used and there have been many answers to prayer, for which we are very thankful.

(v)

The church has engaged with many families and individuals, providing pastoral care for those within and outside the church, during the year. The Pastoral Visiting Team is very small, meaning that visiting by its members is spread very thinly.

It would be encouraging if more people could volunteer to be involved in reaching out to the lonely, sick or housebound in the community, through visiting on behalf of the church. It does require some short basic safeguarding training and a willingness to follow the volunteer agreement, but is such a valuable means of outreach and valued by those visited whether at home, in hospital, or in care facilities.

Through the occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funerals, it is good to remind ourselves of how broad the footprint of the church is in the community.

My thanks go to all those who regularly visit and spend time with people in need.

It has been encouraging to receive letters, in which people share their thanks for the difference this ministry has made to them.

(vi)

Members of the three Heversham House Groups have continued to meet regularly for study, prayer and worship, and growth in discipleship is encouraged through the teaching and support that comes from being part of a house group.

My thanks go to the housegroup leaders, who faithfully plan and prepare each week for this.

### **3. Youth and Children's Work**

(i)

It has been very encouraging to see the young people continuing to be involved in playing in the music group at the All Age monthly service. Thank you to Bob Wilkinson for supporting and encouraging these young people.

Earlier on in this report, I write of the work of the Open the Book Team. Please do pray for the team and this work as we reach out weekly in term time, to over 200 Primary aged children from our community.

(ii)

Holiday Club, held in the summer, was a great success with the Jonah theme transforming St. Thomas' church and involving well over twenty children with a team of leaders, in a wide range of activities. Thank you for the hard work of the team who made this possible and thank you too for the prayers and financial support of members of our congregation. It is a Gospel imperative to pass the faith on to the next generation and we are trying in different ways to make this possible.

What a joy that God is able to do so much more than all we can imagine or believe!

(iii)

For some years, churches in the Kent Estuary have been exploring the idea of having a paid Youth Worker, to work with the youth of our community, particularly those based at Dallam. The majority of funding to pay a Youth Worker for 3 years (approximately £100,000) has been raised through grants and gifts and it is hoped that two part time trained Youth Workers might be appointed in the summer of 2015, on a three-year contract.

### **4. Music in Worship**

St. Peter's is very thankful to Brian Paynes who plays the piano for the 'Second Sunday Service' and the All Age Services. We are delighted that Trevor Thomas also shares his musical gifts with us, playing when needed on a Sunday morning and regularly for the third Sunday service and who leads the monthly 'Open to God' service. Arthur Dewhurst is still willing to support our first Sunday Parish Communion service. Our very grateful thanks go to each of them!

## 5. **Prayer**

The Saturday Prayer Group continues to meet weekly at 8a.m for up to an hour to pray for the Church and community. The attendance of this group is between 6 and 10. This gathering is part of the regular public worship of St. Peter's Church, and is of vital importance to the ministry the church offers. We would love to see more members of the worshipping community coming along whenever they can. You do not have to say a word – silent prayer and listening to God, is just as effective!

It is vital that we take note of that well-known phrase from the BCP Communion liturgy, *'to pray at all times and in places.'* What God is able to do with our prayers may surprise us all!

## 6. **Lay involvement in Ministry**

Thank you so much, to all of you who welcome, give out books, clean, arrange flowers, lead our readings or prayers, play an instrument, manage our finances, hold an office in the church, or help in one of the many valuable ways that enable us to gather together as fellow disciples, to worship and be part of the fellowship at St. Peter's.

A high percentage of the congregation take an active part in the services through reading, leading prayers, assisting at Communion, being involved in music, acting as welcomers, sides people and through offering prayer ministry. This is one of the signs of a healthy church and it is good to see so many people actively engaged in supporting our corporate worship.

My very real thanks go to each of you!

This year, Sue O'Loughlin began her two-year training to become a Reader. I do encourage you to pray for Sue as she journeys on this new path.

## 7. **Window on the World**

The WOW group, led by Mrs. Anne Wickerson, meets regularly to pray for and keep abreast of developments in the organisations that the church supports financially. Through this group, the parish receives information about these organisations and their needs. This information is shared with the congregation through the input from speakers at 9.30 services and through information displayed on the boards in the North aisle.

It has been good to have our eyes opened to the lives and difficulties of Christians and Christian workers in other parts of the world, far from the tranquillity of Cumbria.

WOW continues to make recommendations to the PCC about the tithe giving and the Lent Project. Each year, St. Peter's gives away 10% of its full previous year's income to support these charities and organisations and a further percentage to the Diocese on top of our Parish Offer, to support parishes in this diocese who cannot afford to cover the costs of their ministry.

## 8. **Maintenance of the building**

The PCC have continued to ensure that the work needed to maintain St. Peter's, with its heritage as a centre of worship in the village for many hundreds of years, has been undertaken.

Thank you so much for the generosity of many in your giving of finance, time and energy that enables our church to be so well cared for.

## 9. Finance

I am very grateful to those who have shown by their kindness and generosity that they are committed to seeing St. Peter's grow and flourish and share willingly with others.

The church has continued to look at the needs of those beyond our parish boundaries and, through the tithe, has supported organisations working in challenging circumstances and places, as well as within our own diocese, to share the love and Gospel message of Christ. Thank you so much for your continued sacrificial giving!

At the AGM, Mike Robinson stood down as Treasurer, a post he held for over two decades and whose tasks he performed with great commitment. My thanks go to Mike for all his hard work in looking after the finances of the church with dedication for so many years, for which we are extremely grateful.

Ellie Judson our new Finance Officer, looks after the day-to-day finances of the church, with overall responsibility taken on a shared basis by our Churchwardens, Sue Mellor and Jill Shaw. Terry O'Loughlin, who has experience in this area, provides advice and support when needed. Sylvia Read looks after the fees account and tithe payments. Joan Anderton kindly continues to be responsible for claiming gift aid when necessary.

Having a Finance Team has been new this year, but has meant a sharing of the workload and responsibility. Despite being new, the team has worked extremely hard to ensure all goes well in this important area of church life. My sincere thanks go to each member of the team for their willingness to take up the roles and their commitment in discharging their responsibilities.

.....

I should like to pay tribute to the officers of the church and those who have served on our Parochial Church Council over the last year, for their commitment of time and energy in working together to ensure that the church strives to remain healthy and seeks to grow.

During the year, we have sought to tackle issues with, I hope, recognition that although we have different skills, views and experiences, each are valued. We have sought at all times to be conscious of wider needs and have taken time to move forward with ears listening to God and each other.

I am confident that if we, as His church in this place, remain united, prayerful and committed, we can, working with God, have the privilege of seeing His vision for the growth of His kingdom in Heversham, become a reality.

**The Revd. Susan E. Wilson, Priest in Charge of Heversham and Milnthorpe, February 2015**

# **CHURCHWARDENS' ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT- 2014**

This annual Report is that which the Wardens, in consultation with the Priest in Charge, must make to the PCC at the meeting before the Annual General meeting and then, with any amendments agreed by the PCC, to the Annual Meeting in order to comply with the provisions of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure of 1991. Its required content has been set out in previous reports and need not therefore be repeated in full, but should have regard to an inspection undertaken or arranged by the Wardens and include any action, taken or proposed, to implement the recommendations of the church's Inspection Architect as a result of his/her Quinquennial Report.

## **Quinquennial Report**

The latest quinquennial inspection was undertaken in 2010. In line with the report the PCC has been addressing the recommendations for repair/renovation. All urgent works requiring immediate action have been undertaken. With regard to works recommended to be done within the five year span of the report, the following action has been taken:

1. Redecorate Clock face
2. Lime plastering North aisle (drying out process)

## **Contractors**

The redecoration of the Clock face, the removal and re-installation were undertaken by Cumbria Clocks. The redecorating of the clock faces was undertaken by Graham and Lynn Elliott.

The lime plastering itself was undertaken by the North of England Civic Trust Skills Initiative as a training course. James Woolgrove was Project Manager.

## **Other Building Related Works**

Following on from a meeting with, and at the recommendation of Malcolm Uttley, of the North of England Civic Trust Skills Initiative, regarding the drying out process of the lime plastering on the north aisle. Martin Tyson improved drainage along the north wall by digging a gravel filled trench

## **North Aisle**

The PCC took the decision to submit a faculty application early in 2013 with a view to leaving the north aisle as a flexible space with chairs available for the occasional large service. An amended application was submitted in 2014 to remove the pew platform. Objections to this submission have been lodged and we are awaiting the outcome of the consistory court. However concerns have been raised with regard to the drying out process of the lime plastering and as recorded earlier remedial work has been carried out and further advice will be sought.

## **Heating System**

As reported last year the replacement of the heating system has been under investigation and we have received quotations for replacement of the boiler and fuel supply. We have also had a report from the diocesan heating adviser and an independent heating engineer. The major issues which need to be addressed are finding a system that will not only be efficient in output, therefore improving cost and effectiveness, but also a system which is both aesthetically conducive and acceptable for use within a listed building. We are also aware that the efficiency of the heating system will be compromised unless we adequately address the draught issues.

## **Churchyard Related Works**

There have been two organised working parties throughout the year which have focused mainly on keeping clear the ivy from the perimeter walls of the churchyard and the old school and also removing overgrown vegetation from the area near the access at the gate opposite Heversham house. Some volunteers also work independently throughout the year on identified tasks. General maintenance also included the following: removal of ivy and moss from graves which are not tended by family members; clearing of the drains in order to avoid damp penetrating the stonework; removing vegetation from graves in preparation for further remedial work to make these areas safe. The vegetation removed during the year was used as the basis of an Advent bonfire to welcome the Dallam Boarders to the village. We are indebted to the loyal team of volunteers who undertake this work.

The churchyard mowing has been undertaken by Marcus Knipe and Martin Tyson. Boundary walls have been repaired by Martin Tyson; clearing of the gutters and downspouts was also undertaken by Martin Tyson.

## **Service Reports and Inspections**

The Churchwardens, assisted by George Handley ensure a regular review of equipment and machinery within the church and the implementation of routine service requirements. In the last year this has included:

### **Boiler and pump**

The boiler and pump have been serviced by Les Chaplow of Milnthorpe.

### **Organ**

The organ has been tuned twice this year by Derek Matthews

### **Piano**

The piano was tuned in May by Simon Wroe.

### **Clock**

The clock was serviced by Cumbria Clocks in November .

### **Bells**

The inspection and service of the bells has been delayed due to pressure of work at John Taylor & Co.

## **Safety reports**

### **Ecclesiastical Insurance**

A claim has been made for work to be undertaken on the Good Shepherd window in the south aisle after it has sustained damage.

### **Lightning Conductor**

Lightning Protection Services carried out an inspection of the system .

### **Fire extinguishers**

These have been checked and the certificate of inspection issued. One fire extinguisher had to be replaced.

### **Font**

The restrictions on lifting remain in place. The only people to lift the cover are Revd. Sue, Pat Radcliffe ( for flowers), George Handley and Martin Fletcher

## **Other Matters**

One of the main tasks the Wardens have undertaken this year has been to support the establishment of a finance team, and we are grateful to those who have volunteered to take on new roles and also those who diligently continue in their roles within the new team. The teams that were established in 2013, as a response to only having two Wardens, continue to develop and we are more than grateful for their help.

Another ongoing task is to find appropriate space for storage and it was to this end that we have re-organised the area in the former crèche. This included a full assessment of the hassocks, some of which had sustained water damage and vermin damage. All those found to be sound have been stored throughout the body of the church and in the Vestry loft area.

This year we have completed a number of smaller tasks from the 2010 quinquennial inspection, and await the new 2015 quinquennial report on the fabric of the church and churchyard .

### **In Conclusion**

In addition to the preparation and presentation of this report, the Wardens are also required to maintain a full terrier of all the lands belonging to the church and a full inventory of all the articles belonging to it as well as a logbook noting all alterations, additions and repairs. As previously reported, following the re-writing and updating of these documents in 2002, the final text was computerised and recorded on disc to assist with keeping these documents up to date. A hard copy is kept and can be made available for inspection by the PCC if required. So far as the Wardens are aware, the contents of these documents are accurate.

To the best of our knowledge this report is an up to date assessment of St. Peter's church and its churchyard.

The Wardens would like to record their thanks to everyone who has given of their time freely. We are aware there are a number of people who have unseen roles which are, never the less, vital to the smooth running of the Church. We would also like to record our thanks to these people without whom the Church would struggle to function. All of this forms part of our work and witness to our community and beyond.

**Susan Mellor and Jill Shaw**

Churchwardens

## **Treasurer's Report 2014**

*The accounts for 2014 and the report of the Independent Examiner are set out in the appendix to the Annual report on page 19.*

This is the first year of the Finance team, comprised of Ellie Judson, Sylvia Read, Joan Anderton and Terry O'Loughlin, with oversight by the Wardens.

We have been very blessed by the generous sacrificial giving of St Peter's congregation and were able to give away £7,450 as our tithe, as opposed to the budget forecast of £6,540.

The gift day following our annual review of giving under Giving in Grace exceeded the budget figure of £500 by over £3000 and donations were £5,900 more than the budgeted figure. That, and the holding back of some planned expenditure, has resulted in a surplus for 2014 of £12,000 and a cash reserve of £36,000.

As usual our major expenditure has been our parish offer to the diocese. This covers the cost of clergy and those in training in the diocese. We offered as we have in the past – half the cost of a full-time stipendiary priest plus an amount equivalent to the tithe in the previous year.

Heat, Light and Water is less than budgeted but, the heating system is unreliable and will need to be replaced in the near future. That will be a major expense. We will be looking for external funding but this will still be a major challenge for the church. The proceeds of the sale of the Hincaster Mission Room are for capital projects only.

The main concern is that planned giving was £2,500 less than budgeted and consequently the tax refund under Gift Aid was reduced.

The PCC has approved a budget for 2015 which balances. This does not leave us with anything to contribute to the cost of mission. The diocesan vision is to grow disciples of **all** ages, both within the current community of believers and in the wider community. If we are to reach those who do not yet know the Lord, we will need to invest in the talent and gifts of those able to do this. At St Peter's we have been blessed with a wealth of talent and skills; the challenge will be how we prayerfully use the resources we have to enable God's Kingdom to grow.

We are indebted to our new finance team who have worked diligently in this changeover period and we thank Mike Robinson for his help in this process.

Our thanks also go to David Fell who has ratified the accounts for us this year and we also thank Ralph Henderson who has carried out this task previously, but was unable to continue in this role.

### **Report of St Peter's Deanery Synod members**

The Deanery Synod forms part of the structures of governance in the Church of England, providing a two way flow of information, perspective and view between parishes, the Diocese and, ultimately, the General Synod. The parish elects three people to serve as its representatives and they are ex-officio members of the PCC.

In the last year there have been four meetings of the Deanery Synod.

The first (in February) was a special session convened as a positive step in developing the "Ecumenical County" and the Covenant between the Methodist, United Reformed and Anglican Churches of Cumbria. Rather than dealing with formal business it was facilitated by Bishop Robert as an ecumenical session intended to help develop relationships and to build a momentum and commitment towards the implementation of the Mission Strategy.

The second meeting (in May) was a more traditional business meeting with a presentation by the Diocesan Secretary on the Parish Offer – how it is used and some of the financial challenges and opportunities facing the Diocese as a whole, as it seeks to move forward into the Mission Strategy. The meeting also heard about a new basic Christian course (Pilgrim) and heard from Canon Ruth Crossley about the workings of the general synod.

The third meeting (in July) returned to the subject of the Mission Strategy and the development of Mission Communities. The Synod agreed to a listening exercise across the existing groups in the Deanery and this is expected to provide a basis for further progress over the coming year. Eventually Mission Communities will cover the whole of the Deanery. It will be an evolving project and the timetable is flexible. It is clear that ideas of the size of a Mission Community vary widely and that towns and rural areas show a wide diversity of expectations.

The meeting also had a report back from the York Synod which had accepted the consecration of women as Bishops and a presentation about youth work in the deanery.

The final meeting (October) followed the formal approval of the Mission Strategy by the Diocesan Synod and the challenges of its implementation were again discussed. By way of emphasising that the strategy is not an abstract entity or just about structures, the meeting focused on ways of developing discipleship now (the Lost for Words course; a programme for growing leaders and the development of the Diocese as a Dementia Friendly Diocese) and on the growing experience of ecumenical and collaborative working (in the Western Dales and in the Rainbow Group of parishes around Kirkby Lonsdale)

This summary of the meetings of the Synod does not do justice to the detail the meetings contain. St Peter's representatives are:

Linda Cooper;  
Tony Hesmondhalgh  
Peter Clarke.

Any of them will be happy to answer any questions and a fuller summary report of the year can be obtained through them.

## **Report for Milnthorpe with Heversham Mothers' Union 2024**

At the 2014 AGM reports were given by Eryl Ricketts, Branch Leader, Marion Douthwaite, Treasurer and Kath Singleton, Secretary. Our theme this year was Sowing the Future Together which we hope we have achieved through our speakers this year.

In February two ladies came from Lancaster Priory to talk about their embroidery which they share with the Asian community. They demonstrated their skills showing beautiful designs and colour incorporating love, fear, joy and sorrow.

In March, we welcomed Andy Blackman and his wife Sue to talk about their trips to Kenya and their help with the Open Arms Christian Organisation. He thanked those who had been knitting jumpers and baby vests, which he takes out with him on his visits.

Our speaker for April was Professor Anne Garden who gave a very interesting talk on her 40 years in medicine.

In May the Revd. Canon Carol Marsden gave us amusing tales of 20 years in the priesthood. She told us lots of funny irreverent stories and read some poems. A very funny lady!

Our closing service in July was held at St. Peters, Heversham and was led by the Revd. Sue Wilson.

In September, Jean Sowerby gave us a talk on her holiday in New Zealand.

In our October meeting we had a social. After business, members took part in a quiz compiled by Kath Singleton.

Our speaker in November was Pam Martin from Community Space Challenge.

In our Christmas meeting, Joy Bell came with her keyboard and we all sang carols and Christmas songs. Our Christmas lunch was held at the Netherwood Hotel in Grange, we had a very enjoyable time.

Other activities during the year include our Coffee Morning in May and the Christmas Stall in December. We have supported the Womens' World Day of Prayer in the Methodist Church and in March, we hosted the Lady Day Service at St. Thomas'.

All the committee members attended the Sharing Day at Dalton in Furness in September. The Revd. Alan Mitchell gave a very interesting talk about his life and ministry. After lunch, 3 members gave us a film show about their fascinating trip to Zululand.

Our membership stands at about 40, with attendance at meetings averaging 25. Sadly, one of our members, Elizabeth Bennett, died in September. She will be missed by us all.

Our finances remain sound and, as usual, we are able to support the further work of the MU as well as give to organizations through offering expenses to speakers.

Eryl Ricketts  
Branch Leader

# St Peter's Heversham: Financial Statements for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

## 1, INCOME

	<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>	
Bequests		1310		2200
Collections - Ordinary		3009		2210
Gift Aid	Planned	40181	41201	
	Unplanned	692	216	
	UKET/CAF	3905	5916	
	Tax rebate	9838	10413	57746
		<u>54616</u>	<u>10413</u>	
Donations		6188		454
Fees		3250		3110
Interest and Dividends		102		90
Other income		500		500
Special Events		1687		919
Coffee Money		172		260
Gift Day		3635		2390
Income Passed through				
	Income	5656	6190	
	Passed on	5656	6190	0
		<u>5656</u>	<u>6190</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>74468</u>		<u>69879</u>
Less Tithe		7450		7043
<b>Adjusted Income</b>		<u><u>67019</u></u>		<u><u>62836</u></u>

## 2. EXPENDITURE

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Church Heat Light Water	5007	7440
Maintenance		
Bells and Clock	-25	282
Churchyard	3185	3009
Fabric	2106	5063
Organ	318	679
	<u>5584</u>	<u>9033</u>
Parish Share	33835	33112
Organist & Choir	540	465
Communion Supplies	144	168
Insurance	4149	4303
Vicars Expenses	1602	1393
Travel, Training etc	0	333
Stationery etc	721	356
Books	780	210
Gifts & Donations	665	569
Old School	579	588
Equipment	228	0
Outreach - Deposit for Youth Worker	255	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>54089</u>	<u>57970</u>
<b>Excess Receipts over Payments</b>	12930	4866
Total Funds 1 January 2014	53961	47240
Less MAPping	-707	-1620
Grants less Capital Expenditure completed.	0	3475
	<u>66184</u>	<u>53961</u>
<b>Total Funds 31 December</b>	<u>66184</u>	<u>53961</u>
General Funds	35890	24215
Hincaster Funds	<u>30294</u>	<u>29746</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014</b>		
Bank:		
Current	1657	1984
High Interest	14233	2230
CBF Deposit	20000	20000
Skipton BS	30294	29747
	<u>66184</u>	<u>53961</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>66184</u>	<u>53961</u>

## **Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Peters Church, Heversham**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 which are set out as attached

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The PCC Officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC Officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Officers concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D. H. Fell FCA

5 March 2015

# BUDGET FOR 2015

## 1. Income

	Budget 2013	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Predicted 2014*	<b>BUDGET 2015</b>
Bequests	0	2,200	0	1,310	0
Collections	2,550	2,210	2,000	3,009	2,100
Donations	250	454	250	6,188	500
Fees	3,000	3,110	3,000	3,250	3,000
Gift Aid Planned	41,500	41,201	41,500	40,181	40,000
Other Committed Giving	5,200	5,916	5,000	3,905	3,500
Unplanned Gift Aid	1,200	216	300	692	300
Tax Refund	10,000	10,413	11,000	9,838	10,000
Interest& Dividends	100	90	100	101	100
Grants	500	500	500	500	500
Special Events	1,200	919	1,000	1,687	1,000
Gift Day	500	2,390	500	3,635	2,700
Coffee Money	250	260	250	172	200
Lettings	0	0	0	0	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,250</b>	<b>69,879</b>	<b>65,400</b>	<b>74,468</b>	<b>64,300</b>
<b>Less Tithe</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>7,447</b>	<b>6,430</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>59,625</b>	<b>62,891</b>	<b>58,860</b>	<b>67,021</b>	<b>57,870</b>

\*The budget was prepared prior to the production of the finalised accounts for 2014. The predicted income at budget setting was £67021 but the final figure was £67019. The difference is not material for budgeting purposes.

## 2. Expenditure

	2013 budget	2013 Actual	2014 budget	2014 predicted*	2015
Church Heating	8,000	7,440	8,000	3,653	4,500
Church Electricity	0	0	0	1,190	1,000
Church Water	0	0	0	164	170
Fabric	4,500	5,063	5,000	2,106	
- Repairs	0	0	0	0	800
- Maintenance	0	0	0	0	800
- Contracts	0	0	0	0	600
Organ & Piano	350	679	500	318	
- Repairs	0	0	0	0	150
- Maintenance	0	0	0	0	350
Bells&Clock	200	282	300	-25	
- Repairs	0	0	0	0	0
- Maintenance	0	0	0	0	300
Churchyard	2,580	3,009	3,000	3,185	
- Repairs	0	0	0	0	100
- Maintenance	0	0	0	0	3,000
Parish Share	33,100	33,112	33,800	33,835	34,937
Communion Supplies	500	168	400	144	150
Insurance	5,500	4,303	4,500	4,149	4,250
Licences	320	465	500	540	550
Children's Work	0	0	0	255	400
Staff Expenses	2,000	1,393	2,000	1,602	2,000
Sundry, Travel, Training, etc	200	333	0	0	200
Stationery, incl. photocopying	1,000	356	750	660	400
Website	0	0	0	228	250
Administrative Support	0	0	0	0	1,000
Books	1,000	210	500	780	400
Old School	850	588	600	582	600
Gifts	500	569	600	665	600
MaPping	2,800	1,620	0	707	300
Additional non-recurring items	2,800	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>59,590</b>	<b>60,450</b>	<b>54,738</b>	<b>57,807</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-6,575</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>-1,590</b>	<b>12,283</b>	<b>63</b>

\*The budget was prepared prior to the production of the finalised accounts for 2014. The predicted spend at budget setting was £54738 but the final figure was £54089. The difference is not material for budgeting purposes.