

St James Parish Church, Shilbottle



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA & REPORTS 28th April 2019

AGENDA

VESTRY MEETING

- Introduction
- Opening Prayers
- Apologies
- Nominations for Churchwardens
- Election

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- Apologies
- Minutes of the previous APCM 2018
- Matters Arising
- Reports – note these on this sheet
- Treasurer's Report & Financial Statement 2018
- Electoral Roll
- Churchwardens report
- Election of Deanery Synod delegates (2)
- Election of members of PCC (3)
- Appointment of sides persons
- Appointment of an independent examiner or auditor to the PCC
- AOB
- Closing Prayers

New PCC stay for SHORT PCC MEETING

Appointment of - Vice-chair, Secretary,
Treasurer or joint treasurers
Electoral Roll Officer
Members of the Standing Committee
Date of next meeting
The Grace

REPORTS

No Clergy – in Vacancy

During 2018, the following served as members of the PCC

Readers : Ms Cynthia Bishop
(Rotas & Safeguarding Officer)
Mrs Margaret Weaver
(Electoral Roll Secretary)

Wardens : Mr Philip Angier
Ms Cynthia Bishop
Mr Chris Lendrum
Mrs Irene Marshall

Treasurer: Mrs Lynn Smith/ Mr Philip Angier
from 1st October 2018

Secretary: Mrs Diane Watt

Elected Members: Mrs Elizabeth Angier
Mrs Liz Rixon
Mrs Sandra Slater
Mr Paul Vardy

Members retired at AGM April 2018

Mrs Jean Hall and Mrs Isabel Watson

New members elected at AGM April 2018

Mr Richard Brewis, Mrs Anne Cant, Mr Kevin Logan, Mrs Diane Watt.

Sides persons: Mrs Isabel Watson, Mr Ray Weaver, Mrs June Nolan, Mrs Cindy Logan, Mrs Margaret Prudhoe, Mrs Irene Marshall, Mr Eric Thompson, Mrs Sandra Slater, Mrs Elvie Kirkup.

Deanery Synod: Ms Cynthia Bishop, Mr Chris Lendrum

Diocesan Synod Ms Cynthia Bishop

Christians Together in Alnwick Mrs Elizabeth Angier, Mrs Irene Marshall, Mrs Margaret Weaver

General Review of 2018

Baptisms - 12

Marriages - 1

Funerals - 17

Communicants on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day - 76

Easter Vigil and Communicants on Easter Sunday - 77

Average attendance on Sunday morning – 40

Numbers on Electoral Roll 2018 - 78

Communion is held every Wednesday at 9.30 am

Regular Monthly Meetings

Afternoon Church

Open Door

Dominoes at the Farriers

Coffee mornings in Church.

Parish Lunch at either Hog's Head or The Oaks

Communion at the Haven and Newton on the Moor

January

21st – Songs of Praise for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
– 6pm

26th – Burns Night Celebrations in the Community Hall

February

3rd. Messy Church in the Community Hall

14th – Ash Wednesday service and Imposition of Ashes
During Lent 3 house groups met regularly, following a Pilgrim scheme of six weeks.

Lent lunches were held every Thursday in the Costello Centre, Alnwick, run by Christians Together in Alnwick.

March

11th Mothering Sunday – Everyone given a polyanthus

17th – First Aid Course with 10 participants in the Community Hall

19th and 20th – Big clean in church after re-ordering

22nd – New carpet laid in Church

22nd – Initial meeting of three PCCs (Warkworth, Acklington and Shilbottle) regarding the plan to move into a larger benefice with one incumbent.

25th – Palm Sunday – Procession of Palms and communion

Holy Week – 7pm Reflections in church

29th - Maundy Thursday – 4.30pm – Seder Meal followed by Holy Communion and stripping the Altar in Church.

30th – Good Friday – Messy Church in church

2pm -Last hour before the cross – 2pm

31st – Easter Eve – Dawn Vigil and lighting the Easter Candle followed by breakfast - 6am

April

1st - Easter Day – Family Communion for Easter

22nd – APCM in Church

May

4th - Start of weekend of celebrations for the re-ordering of the church – 5.15pm Evening Prayer

4th – Invitation only preview of the new church re-ordering 6-7pm

5th – Church open all day Morning Prayer followed at 10.30am by Messy Church and at 3pm Afternoon Tea with Compline at 5.30pm

6th –10am Family Communion with Revd. Martin Gilham presiding and preaching. Church open in the afternoon 6pm Re-dedication service with Bishop Mark followed by wine, cheese and cake.

7th – Morning Prayer followed by church open all day for visitors with refreshments available throughout the day – ending with compline.

10th – One class of Children from the local primary school visited church to find out about the building and its contents

10th – Christian Aid Week – Soup and Crumble in the Community Hall

10th -7pm Ascension Day service

22nd – 7pm Dementia Friends awareness meeting in church.

July

8th – 3pm – Pet service

14th – Messy church in church.

22nd – Patronal Festival – Revd. Mike Dixon was invited up for the weekend to preside and preach at the 10am Service. Afternoon tea was provided.

August

20th and 21st - Messy Church Morning Holiday Club

31st –10am- First monthly Coffee morning in Church

September

6th -9th- Diocesan Pathways Mission

7th – Afternoon Church Goes Large as part of Pathways Mission.

28th – MacMillan coffee morning in Church.

October

5th – School Harvest Festival – 1.30pm

7th – Church Harvest Festival Service – 10am

20th – Messy Church in Church.

November

3rd. - North Northumberland Spirituality Group meeting in church.

10th -11th Remembrance Weekend including an exhibition of World War 1 and work from the local primary school and local artists.

10th – 2.30pm – Devotional Service in church open

11th – 10am – Remembrance Service and laying of wreaths in church, followed by laying of wreaths at Commonwealth war graves.

12 noon – Remembrance Service at Newton on the Moor with laying of wreaths

December

1st – Messy church in church.

6th – 6.30pm -Christmas Bingo in the Community Hall

9th – 4pm- Christingle Service in Church.

15th – 4pm - Community Carol Service in the Community Hall

18th – School Carol Service and Nativity in Church.

21st – 7pm Service of Lessons and Carols in church

24th - 4pm - Crib Service at Newton on the Moor

5.30pm - Crib Service in church

11.30pm - Midnight Mass in church.

25th – 10am - Christmas Family Communion

The Re-ordering of our church

A full year has now elapsed since we completed the repair, re-ordering and recommissioning of the church of St James', Shilbottle and it is appropriate that we pause to take stock of the journey so far and of our priorities for the future of this key asset in the life of the village and our community. Let us recall what we set out to achieve when we first developed the plans for the project:

1. to repair the structural fabric of the building, and in particular the tower roof which was leaking badly;
2. to install facilities essential to a modern public building: a toilet accessible for all, a kitchen, improved lighting and heating, and high-quality floor finishes;
3. to create a versatile open space in the centre of the church, necessitating the removal of the choir stalls, allowing more flexibility and innovation in worship; in facilities for music, plays and public performance; and in social activities for the community;
4. to enable the development of the hitherto little used transept, by installing in the arch a full height, soundproof, glazed and opening screen, creating further versatile space which has been used for smaller services, meetings, exhibitions and social events;
5. to give the church a more welcoming feel, with new pathways and lighting outside leading to a freshly glazed porch and an enlarged welcome area inside, also incorporating the repositioned historic font and useful storage.

Thanks to help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Northumberland County Council, church fundraising activities and generous private donors, the work was completed without incurring any borrowing (important for the long-term financial sustainability of the church). We are delighted that the reaction of visitors from near and far has been overwhelmingly positive as reflected in the pages of entries made in our Visitors Book in the weeks and months following the memorable Rededication Service led by Mark, Bishop of Berwick on the first Sunday in May 2018, since when the church has importantly been open to all on a daily basis as an oasis of calm from a busy world. For the future,

our priority is that the church is used more and more fully, to the glory of God and to the benefit of our community. In the spirit of an open and generous church, no charge is made to groups using the building and we very much hope that people will increasingly want to take advantage both of the facilities that we can offer and of the opportunity to reach out and listen to the God who is our inspiration and Redeemer. Christopher Lendrum.

Messy Church

Messy Church had been meeting in the Community Hall and was going well, meeting every other month, but once the re-ordering of the church was finished it has been held in church.

We always planned to meet in the church once the facilities had been upgraded and it meant too that we weren't in opposition to the junior youth club which started meeting at the same time as Messy Church in the Community Hall. We changed the day and time of meeting to a Saturday morning which seemed to suit us all well to begin with, but gradually the numbers dwindled to the point where there were more helpers than participants. The helpers were all putting a lot of work and effort into planning the activities, games and food and morale was beginning to drop so it was decided to return to three meetings a year.

In 2019 we will be meeting on Good Friday, a date in Summer to be arranged and there will be an Advent/Christmas meeting nearer the end of the year. It is hoped that with fewer sessions the numbers will increase again. I would like to thank all those who have been loyal helpers over the past year and given of their time, money and expertise to enable the sessions to continue. I would also like to thank those families who have turned up regularly and supported us. We have a great deal of fun and parents seem to enjoy their time with us as much as the children! Cynthia Bishop

Jamie's Sunday Corner

The purpose is to provide for Christian nurture at an appropriate level for children and to enable adults with families to feel they can come to church as a family. It takes place in the meeting room in church during the morning worship. Thanks to Philip and Elizabeth Angier, Sue Baines McNeil, Margaret Weaver and Richard Brewis for your commitment to this work. We follow the Diocesan guidelines for safeguarding which advises 2 adults are present.

We use material produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells which is linked to the Lectionary and has accompanying activity sheets for the children to work on and take home. These materials are stored in the vestry. There has been a very low uptake of this service due to the lack of families attending church. On occasion we have had one or two children but not on a regular basis. Due to this fact and that helpers are spending time preparing and there is no uptake it has been decided to suspend Jamie's Sunday Corner for the time being. The lack of families and children worshipping at St James is an issue that needs consideration. However, our mission is not about "getting" folk into church but about sharing the message of the

gospel. We need to think more creatively how this can be achieved with the people and financial resources we have available to make this happen. Elizabeth Angier.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod is a forum which brings together clergy and laity from all the churches within the Alnwick Deanery, meeting four times a year.

The continuing financial pressures on the national Church and on our own Diocese remain the focus of much thought at Synod meetings. Parish Share has been kept unchanged for 2019 which is a welcome relief, but we must all be aware that we will face more challenges in this respect in the future as the Church of England implements its policy to cut back its support to dioceses and parishes.

Paul Scott, vicar of St Michael's, Alnwick, retired in 2018 from the position of Area Dean and we are now working under the leadership of his replacement in the role, Alison Hardy, who has joined the diocese as the incumbent of Embleton, Rennington and Rock parishes. In the year ahead we look forward to working with her and colleagues in addressing the issues arising from parish restructuring in the Diocese, and in particular in meeting the challenges of creating the planned combined benefice of Shilbottle, Acklington and Warkworth. Christopher Lendrum.

Ministry and Outreach Committee

This group was formed as an amalgam of the Local Ministry Development group and the Communication Group. It is composed of 4 PCC members, the editor of Scallop Shell and a representative from The Friends of St James. The website editor was also invited. Bob Bain attends in an ex officio capacity. Our first meeting was in September 2018, when it was agreed that we should look at the Parish Action Plan adopted by the PCC in 2017, with a view to monitoring what has been achieved and putting forward further suggestions for PCC discussion, reflecting the way the church is moving forward and particularly in view of the proposal for the new and expanded benefice.

Pastoral group

A small group continues to meet at regular intervals to ensure that we are aware of those in our community with particular needs and that we as a church are doing what we can to support them, if they are willing for us to do so.

Alnwick Christians Together

St James has two representatives on this body, Elizabeth Angier and Margaret Weaver, who regularly attend the meetings. We have been able to support the work of this group again this past year by taking our turn on the Lent Lunches rota, hosting the Songs of Praise service during Christian Unity week. Shilbottle's response to Christian Aid week is organised by Sheila Robertson.

Afternoon Church

Meeting monthly at 2pm, this group has been meeting for approx. 18 months now. It is intended for those who find

the full church service difficult, and 10am too early, and is also supported by members of the congregation. It comprises a short service with hymns (thanks to Lilian our organist), often followed by a short activity - quiz/word search/creative, and then tea and a chat. We regularly have 12 -15 people attending, some of whom help with transport. Margaret Weaver.

Communications

Scallop Shell 2018 -2019

'Scallop Shell' has had a good year, with ten issues produced to time - and occasionally edited from 'far off places'. Many thanks to all who have been part of the writing, production and distribution teams. The numbers distributed have remained quite steady this year and there is still scope for canvassing for further recipients in various parts of the parish. We have been able to include interesting articles by a growing number of authors, which demonstrates that the talent pool is not exhausted yet! After the APCM in 2018, the Communications Sub-Committee was merged with the Ministry Development Group and became the 'Ministry and Outreach Committee', though without the responsibility for being the editorial board for 'Scallop Shell', which now seems to reside with the PCC itself. Active support and assistance will need to be given to the new Editor as that person finds their way in reshaping and producing 'Scallop Shell' for the next period of time. My responsibility will end with the May edition, having by then completed five and a half years in the editorial chair. I am grateful for the opportunity it has given to create and distribute friendly information about our faith and our lively Christian community into about 25% of the homes in our parochial area. We may distribute 200 copies of each issue each time, but far more people read them. A warm 'thank-you' from me for all the help I've received. Colin Gough.

Website and Notice Boards

My role includes the following:

Maintaining and updating the Parish Website

(www.shilbottlechurch.org.uk)

Posting information on Facebook,

([Facebook.com/stjamesshilbottle](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesshilbottle))

Maintaining and updating the parish entry on the 'A Church Near You' website(www.achurchnearyou.com/shilbottle-st-james)

Maintaining and updating a paper version of the Parish Diary which is kept at the back of the church

Producing a monthly schedule of services for the churchyard noticeboard and displaying notices of other events on that noticeboard

I am very grateful to those who supply information regarding dates and events which enables me to keep all forms of communication up to date. A weekly report from Facebook suggests that we have a growing number of people who take an interest in the life of our church.

John S. Holland (Reverend).

Open Door Group

Open Door group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2pm – 3.30pm. Originally it would meet for discussion, prayer and fellowship in the home of a member of the group. Recently, since the reordering of the Church we are able to meet in the Transept room which is warm and ideal for small groups. When it's not possible to use the church, then we have the option of meeting in someone's home. During the past year we have looked at themes including Inspirational Women, Saints and Pilgrimage and have also looked at the ways different countries celebrate Epiphany and New Year. At the moment we have a relatively small group though we are always happy to welcome new members in the future.

Anne Cant.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We started our year providing soup and serving Lent lunches in Alnwick in March. We celebrated the Open Church weekend with cheese and wine following the service on the Friday evening and on Saturday provided afternoon tea for 48 in church. In May we had soup and crumble in the community hall for Christian Aid. In July refreshments were provided following the pet service and another afternoon tea where we had over 50 attending was held on the 21st. The harvest supper in October was held in the community hall with Robert Whitehead and Friends providing the entertainment after a pie and pea supper. Lillian's soup and sweet took place in November and In December the annual bingo night and Christmas raffle draw with tea/coffee and mince pies. We ended the year providing refreshments at the Community Carol service in the hall. All of our events were a great success both financially and socially and enjoyed by all – I hope!

Irene Marshall.

Friends of St James

Since the last report, the Friends have continued to work towards their goal of raising funds for the long-term maintenance of the church building and promoting fellowship within the community and among supporters of the church. Last May, the Friends provided refreshments during the Open Church Weekend when visitors came to view the work that had been done to renovate the building. We also organised a Curry Night at Lal Khazana which was well supported and much enjoyed. Later in the year, in November, Andy and Margaret Watchorn entertained us with 'traditional music from Northumberland and beyond'. This was the first concert in Church since the extra space had been opened up in the chancel and the acoustics were well suited to their interesting array of instruments. By popular request, another Burns Supper was held this January in the Community Hall, and the success of the evening was due to the contributions of many people helping to provide excellent food and entertainment. Financially the amount raised during the year through subscriptions and events was £1164.

Vivien Gough.

