ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

There are 25 members of the PCC including the vicar. As we did not appoint any churchwardens at the APCM in 2018, these responsibilities have been taken on by the vicar and PCC members. Pam Adlington and Tom Lloyd have been invaluable as assistant wardens.

Our treasurer, Colin Gidman, has been very diligent in keeping our finances in good order and has provided us with bi-monthly financial reports at PCC meetings. Our chosen charities this year were the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the Archbishop’s Mustard Seed Appeal, Medecines sans Frontieres and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. These charities share around £3,000 between them, supplemented by fundraising. Keith Phillips runs a thriving 100 Club run but would welcome more partakers. A fortnightly whist drive has been held at the school.

 The PCC is also grateful for the continuing support from the three Parish Councils towards the cost of maintaining the Churchyard.

The annual church fete continues to be a significant event in the life of the Church and this year made just over £4,000 .The PCC is very grateful to Joan Drye as Chairperson and to all who organised and contributed to this event.

The August pilgrimage in Northumberland-St Cuthbert’s way was massively enjoyed and appreciated by all who partook. It was a time of fantastic fellowship.

A very successful musical evening was held in June 2018 to raise funds for the church.

A pudding and quiz night was held at the end of March this year to fund the celebration of flowers event which will be held in July to celebrate the church’s 750th birthday. This will be an exciting weekend which will include the church fete and refreshments in the church. Tickets are already available for a concert on the Friday evening and there will be a special service on the Sunday.

There will also be a walk between the two parishes in May to fund the flowers for this event.

We are very fortunate in having such a dedicated and hardworking Lay Reader in Ann Barlow and thank her for her constant support and commitment to the parish. Advent, Lent and Alpha courses have been held for all in the parish, offering afternoon and evening meeting times with the enticement of refreshments.

We have a very talented and devoted church organist in David Tredwell who plays for most and both morning and evening services. Barry Dodgson plays the organ in the morning on the third Sunday and Felicity Wilshaw plays on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Evensong and covers for David when he is unable to play. A choir was brought together to sing at the Nine Lessons and carols. We have a dedicated team of bell ringers and a faithful and helpful team of sidespersons

2019 has seen a change in the pattern of worship. Mattins on the fourth Sunday has been replaced by an all age service to attract more people and encourage growth. The Hands Together club has stopped meeting and families with children and young people are encouraged to attend and participate in these all age services. Family Communion services are held on the first and third Sundays and a family service on the second and fifth Sundays.

Messy church has continued in its popularity and now meets on a third Sunday in the afternoon and involves families from both parishes .It consists of craft- centred activities with songs and culminates in a meal together. This is very positive way of developing our mission of a growing church. The services of prayer book communion at 8am and evensong at 6 30 pm have been retained for all who prefer a more traditional service. There is also a weekday service of Holy Communion on a Thursday morning and Holy Communion follows evensong twice a month.

Anthony Rigby has joined us as part of his ordinand training and has been a welcome addition to church life.-we wish him well. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have a third person trained to take the chalice when Ann and Keith are unavailable. Felicity Wilshaw has trained in this role

It is very encouraging to see so many people coming together for refreshments after services .This is a good opportunity to get together with members of the parish, both new and old.

There is a legal obligation to make our church as accessible as possible and with this aim in mind, our pew reordering project is near completion. .Keith will elaborate on this in his fabric report

We have celebrated several special services over this year. The evening service of rogation was followed by a “bring and share” tea in the school hall. The Harvest Festival morning service was followed by a ploughman’s lunch with apple pie in the school hall. David Tredwell presented a talk about his experiences of playing a church organ.

2018 was the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War and eleven silhouettes and eight plinths were placed in the church to correspond exactly with the number of men who lost their lives in the First World War .A traditional remembrance service was held on the Sunday morning with an outside observance. Roger Turner and his committee provided a wonderfully appropriate commemorative event in the evening entitled War’s over, a Nation’s tribute.

 The Christmas services including the Nine Lessons and Carols were all well supported.

The plough service was held in the morning this year and was the first of our all Age Services. We had hoped to follow this with another ploughman’s lunch but this had to be cancelled due to a clash with another event .In February, the family service celebrated the theme of marriage.

On Maundy Thursday there was a commemoration of the Last Supper and on Good Friday a service of Meditation was held.

The Church has a strong link with Lower Peover School and the Little House. The Vicar takes weekly assemblies in the school or the church. The children also come into church for Harvest celebrations, Nativity presentations, Christingle and Easter services.

I would like to thank Lynda Boag – Munroe for editing the parish magazine, Ann Barlow for keeping our website up to date and Carl for producing the newssheet .These are all very effective means of communication.

 The work of the Church is also supported by many helpers who give their time voluntarily in many different ways such as the delivery and stapling of magazines, cleaning of the Church, maintaining the grounds , catering, souvenir selling, arranging the altar frontals and flower arranging –all these contributions to church life are invaluable.

Finally, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank Jane for all her work and dedication to the parish over the past year. She has been a marvellous, faithful vicar and support to us all. We will say goodbye to Jane in July as she takes on the post of vicar of the three parishes of Haslington, Crewe Green and Wheelock. We will miss her very much but are delighted for her as she progresses in her professional life. We wish Jane, Tom, Joe and Cathy all the very best in their new life as they enjoy fresh challenges!