



St Peter and St Paul , Hellingly , Church Road, Hellingly, BN27 4EZ

Holy Trinity, Coldharbour Road, Upper Dicker, BN27 3QB
The Revd. David Farey

ANNUAL REPORTS

for the Year 2017

for the Church of St Peter and St Paul Hellingly

and

Holy Trinity Church, Upper Dicker

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Church is a community witnessing by lifestyle, words and actions that we live in Christ’s world. We seek to show that the love of our Creator and Saviour is for everyone.”



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Vicar's report (Revd. David Farey)

2017 has been a year of consolidation. There have been a number of changes which have occurred since I came to Hellingly over three years ago in 2014. Significantly we have seen many new faces that have come through our doors and Hellingly and Upper Dicker churches have established themselves as places where things happen! Positive things! We have a reputation for being a welcoming parish, which can be hard to maintain and must not be taken for granted. We all need to ensure that visitors are made to feel welcomed and not excluded.

We offer a range of services and opportunities for action across the community, from those few willing volunteers who operate the Food Bank in town on Thursdays, through involvement in a number of groups in the community – Hailsham Forward, Community Forum, Hailsham FM; a thriving Mothers Union which is active in the Eastbourne Contact Centre and Conquest Cake Ministry; a consistent monthly Men's Breakfast; our Open the Book group leading school assemblies. There are also concerts and services which provide a constant support through our regular services as well as weddings and baptisms for those seeking to know God more and come to him in worship. Yes, there is no question that Hellingly and Upper Dicker is a thriving parish.

Over the last year the all colour magazine has become established and continues to impress. All too often church magazines have failed to move with the times and quickly look outdated. If we truly are concerned for mission and proclaiming the message of God's love through what we do as a church then we must continue to ensure that we communicate in a way that reaches out and touches the mind-set of 21st century citizens. It does not mean though that we give up on obedience to our God and what he expects of us. The message of God's mercy and justice through Christ is unchanging.

We are also in a good position with our Administration team of Tracey and Fin. They share the role after Marion's departure. Marion set the benchmark and established vital systems to help us to operate as efficiently as possible. It is important when we have contact from those outside the church that they are helped and assisted as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

Our website and Facebook pages are also important tools in communicating what and who we are and what we do, as well as the weekly notice sheet and posters.

Key projects that are ongoing are the proposed links with Bedes School. The discussions have stuttered somewhat but are still ongoing and hopefully will see some movement over this Summer.

The proposed new Primary School in Park Road is also still live. The County's decision was finally that it be part of an all age education package provided by Hailsham Community College, so not a church school. Contact is already being made with them in the hope that as a church we can nevertheless provide support and be involved in the life of this important community development.

We also need to keep an eye on the Community Centre project on the Roebuck estate so that we can hopefully explore offering a ministry to people there.



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The Friends of Hellingly are now up and running and drawing in support. Projects are already being earmarked for applying funds raised. It will help to ensure that the fabric of our precious building is maintained by applying funds raised to develop and improve our facilities, making it even more attractive to visitors and people in the area.

As people are drawn to us there are many ways in which people can be encouraged to participate. There is the ongoing unseen work of our cleaners and flower arrangers; the task of welcoming and providing refreshments; participation in services through singing, reading, interceding, serving and healing ministry; bell ringing; Friday Night Office; Wedding Fair teams; children's corner rota; fund raising support; support through groups like the Buildings or Magazine Committees; and the Open the Book ministry going into schools. We also have a thriving Mothers Union whose members provide support in so many ways. So we all must give thanks to everyone who provides support through these and many other ways. We are a parish of a significant size and growing. As we expand it requires us to think of new and innovative ways of engaging with the issues a growing church presents. It's a nice problem to have!

It is important not to be complacent though. We do have challenges. Financially our income does not yet match our expenditure. This is an inevitable situation because of our expansion into so many areas and the life and vitality of our congregations which need support. The days of a church relying on the loose change people put in the plate week by week are long gone. Some churches are even experimenting with card payment facilities! It has to be part of our ethos that with a growth in faith and an appreciation of how important the structure and facilities that Mother Church offers that we would wish to support it through a generosity of heart in giving to the Church. What we put in the plate is a reflection of our commitment to Christ and his Church.

We also have to work at maintaining the friendly and welcoming reputation. It does not just happen, but relies upon each and every one of us doing what we can to make every person who enters our churches welcome and appreciated. A visitor who has a bad experience will not come back again! We need to be constantly vigilant!

Tribute must be paid as well to Phil Edell, our Curate. We were extremely fortunate to have him even for the short time that we did. In his time with us he made his mark in a positive sense. His qualities of personal care and commitment to people were clear and he led and preached sensitively and showed enormous promise. It was sad that the Church bureaucracy failed to see what we saw, but our loss is Dunkirk's gain and I am sure that he will be a name that we shall hear more of in the future in the wider church.

Meanwhile we have been fortunate enough to gain a number of clergy into our fellowship who have done sterling service during my sabbatical. Peter Clark is a faithful rock to rely on. Sadly we have lost Will, but he has done wonderful work and has always been willing to step in when necessary. He is much missed. Ronald Chatwin is a precious support and continues to shine as our Chairman of Friends. These stalwarts have been joined by Des Burton and Chris Macdonald who are now so much a part of us. We are also occasionally supported by Jim Smith. We are indeed truly blessed!



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And I would finally wish to thank Graham and Carol who as our Church Wardens are truly magnificent. I really am truly grateful to them both for their tireless work for the parish and for their wise and encouraging support of all that I do as I seek to lead the parish nearer to God.

To all an enormous thank you for making Hellingly and Upper Churches the wonderful places to be that they are!

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Deanery Synod Report 2017

The three meetings across the year took place in different parts of the Deanery with the meetings consisting of the usual business, a Parish Report, a Main Speaker and Reports of activities taking place in the Diocese.

Parish Reports were received about: Herstmonceux & Wartling and Christ Church, Horam

The main topics being:

1. The Archdeacon of Hastings spoke on the recent Theos Report *Doing Good: a Future for Christianity in the 21st. Century Britain*. The report highlights the relationships between, Religion, Politics and today's Society.

2. Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The speakers outlined the work of DAC and hoped a new simplified programme allowing minor works to proceed without consultation so long as specified conditions were met (Route A); a further list of works that may be undertaken without a faculty once the archdeacon, had given notice (Route B); and more extensive work still requiring a full faculty procedure (Route C).

3. Sussex Historic Churches Trust: This organisation was formed in 1956 and they are available to be approached for grants for restorations and repairs. Last year they gave grants of £100,000. Part of their fundraising is done by 'Ride and Stride' when people are asked to bicycle or walk, for sponsorship, to as many Sussex churches as there are able. It was suggested that when we are doing work on our churches we think of applying for a grant, which could be as much as £20,000.

Full reports on any of the Parish Reports or Main Speakers can be obtained from Gillian Chubb, Olive Lewis, or Carol Haywood

The Parish of Hellingly and Upper Dicker

St Peter and St Paul is located in Church Lane, Hellingly, East Sussex BN27 4HA

Holy Trinity is located in Coldharbour Road, Upper Dicker, East Sussex BN27 3QB

Electoral Roll Numbers: 189 in 2016, with the combining of both churches into one parish, a review of the Electoral Roll was undertaken and with the removal of those who had left or had passed away our Electoral Roll for 2017 stands at 134.

The parish is a charity registered with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Incumbent The Revd. David Farey
Wardens: Mr Graham Bragg
 Miss Carol Haywood (Vice Chair)

Representatives on Deanery Synod

Miss Carol Haywood
Mrs Olive Lewis
Mrs Gillian Chubb
Mrs Marian Richards



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Elected Members:

Mrs Margaret Bloomfield
Mr Ashley Butler
Mrs Teresa Butler
Mr James Dickinson
Mrs Maureen Eason
Mrs Shirley Hamper (PCC Representative on the Standing Committee)
Mr Paul Hannam
Miss Beth Lee
Mrs Valerie Moore
Mr Andrew 'Pip' Piper (Treasurer)
Mrs Sylvia Skinner
Mrs Alison Sylvester
Mrs Margie Thorp
Ms Nicky Twort

Committees of the PCC

Standing Committee:

The members are the Vicar, the two Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Mrs Maureen Eason (Upper Dicker) and Mrs Shirley Hamper

Fund Raising Committee

Mrs Barbara Moore, Mrs Jean Smart, Mrs Betty Welch, Mrs Betty Bragg, Mrs Yvonne Knight, Mrs Mary Westgate, Mrs Mary Redford, Mrs Lynne Evans, Mrs Margaret Bloomfield, and Mrs Val Moore.

Magazine Committee:

The Vicar, Mrs Jean Smart, Mrs Betty Bragg, Mr Andrew Piper, Mrs Marian Richards, Mr James Dickinson, and Mrs Eileen Proctor.

Buildings Committee:

Mr Graham Bragg, Mr Rob Moore, Ms Nicky Twort, Mr Paul Hannam, Mr Les Miles,

Side Persons:

8 am - Mallord Turner, Olive Lewis, and Jean Smart

10.45 am – Betty Bragg, Alison Sylvester, Barbara Moore, Carol Haywood, Cissie Hartley, Joy Taylor, Sylvia Skinner, Shirley Hamper and Lynne Evans.



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Churchwardens' report (Graham Bragg and Carol Haywood)

2017 welcomed the combining of the church of St Peter's & St Paul's, Hellingly and Holy Trinity, Upper Dicker, into the new parish of Hellingly and Upper Dicker. Under the Vicar's strong leadership, numbers in the congregation at Hellingly have increased. The successful monthly Men's Breakfast is continuing to attract those with no church connection.

Unfortunately, the progress on reaching a legal agreement with Bede's School over the long-term future of Holy Trinity church. has proved to be very slow. We are assured, however that Bede's school do wish to continue with the negotiations, so we are hopeful the matter will be concluded shortly.

It was hoped that the Diocesan bid for a new church school in Hellingly would have a positive outcome, but we have to report that this was unsuccessful.

Unfortunately, our Curate, Phil Edell, was not selected for Ordination but we congratulate him on his appointment in France with the Mission of Seamen. Phil's leaving has obviously increased the Vicar's workload.

Just over a year ago the Quinquennial Report was submitted by the church architect covering both churches, and we can confirm that all the essential items highlighted for repair and maintenance have been completed. There are still, however, items to be completed which were less essential. We would like to thank the members of the building committee and the re-ordering committee for their efforts. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, progress has been slow in putting in place suggestions made by the re-ordering committee.

The memorial garden is now ready to receive the interment of ashes and the erection of the stone seat is still to be finalised plus the planting of a border hedge. The flower beds outside the west door, previously used as a memorial garden will be reinstated by grassing over and having stone memorial plaques in place, when agreement has been reached with relatives.

We would like to extend a huge thankyou to the many groups of volunteers who each day, week and month continue to give their time and talents to keep our churches and their gardens in good order.

Our fund-raising committee continues to hold various events across the year, the most successful in terms of money raised, being the Festival of Transport cake stall. We welcome the recent formation of The Friends of Hellingly Church under the chairmanship of the Revd. Ronald Chatwin, the aim of which is to raise money so that the church building is kept in good repair for future generations to enjoy. Two successful events have been held so far in 2018.

PCC Report (Gillian Chubb)

The year got off to a flying start on January 1st with the finalisation of the union of the two parishes of Hellingly and Upper Dicker. There was one joint service of celebration held in Hellingly Church on 29th January, followed immediately afterwards by the Special Annual Parochial Church Meeting – brought forward following the merger, incorporating both the accounts and electoral rolls.



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The first PCC Meeting was held at Bede's School, Upper Dicker, in February. It was a short meeting, in which the officers of the PCC were confirmed. Discussion about future numbers on the PCC was deferred until the following year and names of volunteers for the building, re-ordering, magazine and fund-raising committees were noted. A new group is being formed, aiming to attract secular support for our Grade I listed Church in the wider community.

The Revd. Tim Buckler, Bede's School Chaplain, then joined the meeting, specifically to chart in detail the future of Holy Trinity Church in conjunction with Bede's. He said it provided a wonderful opportunity for enlightened mission, maximising the building to serve the whole community. A licence or lease in collaboration with the Church's and School's solicitors would be the next step.

The Faculty for the long-awaited Garden of Remembrance was announced at our next meeting in March, enabling the plans to go ahead. Minor hurdles have arisen since, necessitating discussions in subsequent meetings. The new bumper Parish Magazine in its new format containing lively and interesting articles, many illustrated, is seen as a mission tool, so consequently is entirely free.

There were four other PCC meetings during the year, in which the focus had been on mission and outreach. The re-ordering of the Church has been discussed, too, the first improvement being the revamping of the Children's Corner, now a magnet for small children. The Diocese's new safeguarding initiative SQP – Simple Quality Protects has been discussed; It is now mandatory for everyone in contact with children and vulnerable adults to renew their training every three years. Using Fair Trade items as far as possible, we are working towards becoming an ECO church.

We were very sad to say goodbye to the Revd. Phil Edell, who, as well as being an immense help to our energetic and hard-working vicar, gave unstinting support to the various Parish sub-committees with considerable acumen, enthusiasm, and diplomacy.

The PCC are very grateful to the Fund-Raising Committee, chaired by Barbara Moore, who have again provided us with a wide variety of entertainment during the year, to Tess and Simon Gray for their superb – and highly successful - running of the Cake Stall, and to Christine Campbell-Dykes and her flower arrangers for their beautiful flowers each week. After thirteen wonderful years for which we are enormously grateful, Christine has now handed over to Tess Gray who likewise has our most grateful thanks. As always, we thank Jane Tourle and her wonderful team who so generously and selflessly provide us with delicious culinary treats during the year.

Finally, the PCC wish to record our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their support in so many ways – both seen and unseen, all of which contribute to the Mission of the Church.

Financial Report (Andrew Piper)

On 1st January 2017 the parishes of St Peter and St Paul, Hellingly and Holy Trinity, Upper Dicker combined to create the single parish of Hellingly and Upper Dicker. This report reflects the combined account. For this year only, it will be difficult to compare figures year on year.



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During 2017 we have received a legacy of £15,500 and have received £7,000 from the Margaret Lawrie Trust. We allocated £1000 as start-up funding for the Friends of Hellingly Church. On our General Account our expenditure has exceeded income by £12,113.98. The deficit has been made up from our deposits.

General Account

Income

Income from Voluntary Giving Donations and Legacies	£87,888.90
Income from Trading Activities	£40,148.18
Income from Investments	£329.35
Income from The Margaret Lawrie Trust	£7000.00
Total Income	£135,366.43

Expenditure

Expenditure on Charitable Activities	£106,256.08
Other Expenditure	£41,224.33
Total Expenditure	£147,480.41

Income over Expenditure **-£12,113.98**

Our regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and through envelopes, standing orders and the offertory including the Gift Aid returned from HMRC amounts to £64,297.76. Unfortunately, this alone does not cover our parish share paid to the diocese and we have to rely on fundraising, trading activities and legacies to support the work of the church.

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £64,893.00 paid to the Diocese to cover ministry costs. This amount covers the housing and stipend and pension costs of the clergy and the church insurance and also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds. It should be noted that the church is meeting 100% of the costs allocated to this parish.

The parish is an employer registered with HMRC for the purposes of PAYE and National Insurance. Salaries and National Insurance costs amount to £13,264.00.

£3799.79 has been passed to various charities from retiring collections and fundraising efforts. Fundraising efforts have raised £7803.05 for church funds.

A full set of accounts form part of the PCC Report.

Looking forward to 2018

Without an increase in voluntary giving, either with a greater number of donors or increased individual donations we will need to call upon our reserves again to balance the books. These reserves have in the past come from legacies and we must encourage people within the parish to consider the church when reviewing their wills.



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Mothers' Union Report (Lynne Evans)

It has been another busy year for our branch. The Loving for Life run by Jacky and her team was attended by 12 couples who are due to marry in our church. 18 children and 16 adults attended our Advent Party. These two functions enable us to reach out to couples and families in our community.

We held our Wave of Prayer meeting which was attended by 17 members our prayers being for our overseas Link Branches. Members also attended the prayer meetings in other churches in and around Eastbourne, also we helped run the District coffee morning with St Elizabeths Church and 11 Members attended Mary Sumner Day at Rye.

Our meetings were very well attended, and all members enjoyed them. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner at the Kings Head

Again, our Committee worked hard aided by many other members, sending birthday and wedding cards, baptismal visiting, teddy knitters, posy, and Christingle makers.

The Vicar asked us to consider finding a Branch Leader he has asked that we think about it during the following year, however, he acknowledged that the Committee runs the Branch very well and we hope the members share that view.

Bell-ringers (Chris Stephens)

We continue to welcome the congregation to worship most Sundays, although not always with a full team of six, and to ring at weddings.

We have a relatively strong band now, and our newer recruits are learning rapidly. We have developed good links with a nearby tower, visiting them frequently, and this has helped a number of our ringers to progress and improve.

We have welcomed groups of cubs to the tower to see how bells are rung, and visiting ringers, including one group raising money for a cancer charity.

Special thanks go to Bill Lovell for organising extra "learner" sessions, and Pam Lawrence for charity fundraising in aid of Syrian refugees. We have also said goodbye to Maggie Burt, who moved to the north-east, and Leslie Miles who stepped down as steeple-keeper in December 2017.

Hellingly Choir (Peter Wilson)

It was a good year with the choir and apart from the weekly services and weddings, we performed the Messiah (from scratch) on Holy Saturday with an augmented choir. It went exceptionally well, and we had a good audience and some fantastic soloists.

Joan Hester from Ripe invited our choir members to join her choir for a couple of Evensongs during the year and these were very special events. We repeated these evensongs at Hellingly and they were well attended by the Hellingly congregation.

The choir performed (with many other church choirs) at the RSCM festival service at Chichester Cathedral in 2017, and will be doing the same this year on April 28th

The choir deserve a big thank you for the 9 Lessons and all the Christmas services, once again the services was very successful.



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The choir enjoyed several social events through the year and look to continue this tradition in 2018.

Peter is taking a sabbatical leave from duty from March to September this year and leaves the choir and organ in the very capable hands of Julius Weeks during that period.

Church Flowers (Tess Gray)

I have taken over the responsibility for “Church Flowers” at the beginning of the year. My role is to co-ordinate a team of dedicated flower arrangers who give their time and money to make the church look beautiful and welcoming. In the case of weddings, I discuss with the “brides to be” what extra flowers are required, at a cost to them, which we all enjoy.

It has been agreed that some finance could be made available for the flowers and I think that £20 a month would be a suitable amount. Any accumulation of the monthly sum that may not always be spent, can be set towards the cost of flowers for Harvest Festival and Christmas.

The Open Book (Jacky Clark)

Exactly a year ago this month a new church venture was born called “Open The Book” The aim is to present bible stories to primary school children in the form of a play. The plays are acted out by adults but also use some children as part of the play each time. The resource books are provided by the Bible Society and so far they have been given to us free of charge.

Several of us from church attended a training day where we tried out our skills at miming and using our initiative with minimum props and costumes. We were also taught the rules and regulations of performing in schools to fulfil both OFSTED and school requirements for Collective Worship.

Our team started with 10 members but then Pip Piper became Treasurer, so we are down to 9. Pip, however, has agreed to remain a props man when we need him and he’s brilliant at that.

So far, we have performed 7 plays in Hellingly and Park Mead schools and also at Family Services in Hellingly church. We are very well received in both schools and the children have got to know us now and are keen to join in when asked. It’s an amazing experience watching their faces as we do the plays. They are totally absorbed in the action and respond really well. Those who attend our family services have seen for themselves what it entails, although we always have to adapt the scenes to fit the plays into a much smaller space in church.

We all enjoy taking part and it is a wonderful opportunity for outreach and to impart the bible stories to these children who probably would never hear them otherwise. A very special ministry.

To enable this to keep going we really need some more volunteers, which will spread the load so that people do not have to take part in every play and of course there will be the new school in Hellingly eventually, so we are thinking ahead. You don’t have to remember lines as most of it is mimed with a narrator reading the story from a special children’s bible. For more details speak to me, Jacky Clark



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The Friends of Hellingly Church (Rev Ronald Chatwin)

The Friends of Hellingly Church, as an official organisation, was brought into being by a proposal adopted by the Parochial Church Council. The resolution acknowledges the independence of the Friends' Committee to act unilaterally. The committee originally existed of three PCC members plus the Assistant Curate. I was co-opted as Chairman. The curate left the parish and the few remaining members continued to plan the launch of The Friends which took place on 15th December 2017 at Holmbush House.

Invitations distributed by various means, including house-to-house, have, so far, resulted in a signed-up membership of forty, with £3,766 in committed donations.

The first function, a Champagne Tea Party at Meadow Farm, was attended by fifty sit-down members and their friends, plus six workers. My grateful thanks to Simon and Tess Gray for hosting the event, which raised £375. The committee plans to hold four functions per year, with the next on 4th July, "a Pimms on the Lawn" at my house.

It is necessary for the organisation to be secular in its ideals in order to attract the support of those who do not attend church regularly, or at all. (We had at least one professed Muslim at our first function!) To this end, I have co-opted six new members to the committee, bringing with them their expertise that will widen our scope of interests. Now that Marian Richards has moved away, we welcome a new secretary, Teresa Butler, who has formally joined us.

Finally, I express my grateful thanks to Pip Piper, Marian Richards and Margaret Thorp, committee members, and to Jean Piper, for their commitment and tenacity, without which there would have been no launch or existence of a flourishing Friends of Hellingly Church.

Statistical information supplied to Chichester Diocese

Various data has had to be supplied to Chichester.

We have had -

Funerals:	17
Baptisms:	39
Marriage:	24
Blessings:	2