

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Priest-in-charge:

The Revd Deidre West

01728 688340

Banks:

HSBC Bank plc

20 High Street, Saxmundham IP17 1DB

Independent Examiner:

Mr Patrick Ritchie

12 Andrew Burtts Close

Framlingham

Suffolk

IP13 9TD

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

All Saints' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Deidre West, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. [PCC (powers) Measure 1956 Section 2]. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Cemetery Chapel and graveyard.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following people served as members of the PCC. Their term of office, excluding the priest-in-charge, ends at the APCM in 2016.

Priest-in-Charge:	The Reverend Deidre West
Churchwardens:	Mrs Alison Molyneux Mrs Mary Baker (Elder)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr Don Evans (to January 2015) Miss Eileen Leach MBE (Elder Emeritus) Mrs Alison Molyneux (from January 2015)
Elected Members:	Mr Paul Baker (Treasurer) Lady Clemency Cunliffe Mrs Ruth Garratt (from 2013) Mrs Kelly Jeffery (Safeguarding) Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain) Mrs Lucy Nobbs (from 2013) Mr John Penny (from 2013) Mrs Lydia Freeman (from 2014)

Mrs Janet Weston (from 2014)

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates one official committee which meets between full meetings of the PCC. This is the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject only to directions given by the Council. It met twice this year to discuss the churchyard (in July) and security (in November).

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

THERE WERE 4 BAPTISMS, 2 WEDDINGS AND 4 FUNERAL SERVICES IN THE CHURCH DURING THE YEAR.

Average attendance at Sunday services in October, over 2 services, was 10 adults and 0 children.

On Easter Sunday at 8.30 there were 40 present including 40 communicants.

On Christmas Eve there were 64 present including 44 communicants.

The number on the electoral roll in December was 73.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 82%. There were three additional meetings: 2 joint meetings with the Village Hall committee to discuss the fete and a meeting in November to plan the Christmas Fair. These meetings were either chaired by Revd Deidre West or Christopher McArthur depending on Revd West's other commitments.

The main theme for the Diocese and for All Saints' Church and its PCC this year was "Growing in God" and in our benefice we have focussed on the three goals of Growing Together, Growing in Number and Growing Younger.

GROWING TOGETHER has involved working with the churches in Marlesford, Campsea Ashe, Hacheston and Parham as well as with our long-standing partners in Kettleburgh and Easton. We have worshipped together, met to discuss the future at Benefice meetings, gathered together for social events and held a combined Lent Course. The ultimate aim is that the seven churches will eventually form one benefice and Revd Deirdre West will be able, on her retirement, to hand over the reins of a strong and committed worshipping community. It should be noted that as a result of the above changes we now have fewer regular Sunday services and this may be reflected in collections income.

GROWING IN NUMBER is a challenge for all the churches of the benefice, but the benefice services have attracted worshippers to all the seven churches while Brandeston retains its two regular communion services each month with their regular churchgoers and occasional visitors. New members have joined some of these services but, sadly some of our number have either died or moved away, or are no longer attending regular worship.

GROWING YOUNGER is focussed on a few events each year which retain the link between the church and the young people of the benefice. Brandeston continues to hold its FrostFest event which is very much enjoyed, bringing the

elders and young people of the benefice together, but the number of young people attending is limited. Elders are also involved in running the holiday club at Charsfield each summer. This continues to grow, attracting children and older teenage helpers from a wide area. Brandeston Hall School continues to use the church for services on significant Church occasions during the year such as Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day and Harvest Festival services where their generous contributions of goods make up the bulk of our donations to FIND. There is always a good turnout for the Palm Sunday service with a donkey procession, and for Mothering Sunday and Christingle services.

In addition to these the following items were discussed at PCC meetings.

In January Colin Matthews retired as a regular organist although he continues to help us out from time to time. Our thanks go to him and to Christine for their continued support in so many ways.

Another issue that gave rise to a lot of thought was the request from Channel 5 to film a production about John Lowes in the church-a request which was ultimately rejected. This sensitive subject material also arose when Eastern Angles used witchcraft as the topic for one of their plays in the village hall, attracting visitors to the church.

In March thanks were expressed to all those who helped with the final phase of trimming the yew hedges leading to the church. According to Peter Arbon, the original hedge was planted in 1856.

Mrs Baker's re-commissioning as an elder was approved.

Following the APCM in April the appointment of officers and dates for the year's meetings were agreed.

At the June meeting It was announced that the architect, Steven Claydon, would carry out the quinquennial inspection in August 2015 and we agreed that the Music and Flowers festival, organised predominantly by Janet Weston, had been a great success and raised a total of £3027.43. This event was not only a success on a financial basis but also as a means to bring together the people of the village and the surrounding area. There were many helpers and performers from the village who gave their time, talents and energy to the event.

September

We heard that generally the yew hedge had established well.

The meeting was also informed about the standing committee that had met with Revd West on the 9th July 2015 to clarify churchyard protocols in rule with Diocesan recommendations. These were discussed at this meeting.

November

Charitable giving was agreed at this meeting.

- Nansambo £200
- Children's Society Christingle collection
- SHCT £25
- Ipswich Night Shelter £200

There will be additional indirect donations from events such as the bike ride and carol singing.

Ruth Garratt and Alison Molyneux offered to administer the flower rota since Eve Crane no longer wishes to be involved with this, although she will continue to do flower arranging. She was thanked for her work.

The dead yews in the hedge have been removed and replaced with new ones with the wood being sold to local craftsmen. Lady Cunliffe was thanked for all this work.

Mr Payn from Framlingham College agreed to look into the pruning of the trees round the church.

Mr McArthur reported that he had met the architect for the quinquennial inspection and that electrical work to the earthing system was completed.

The front path may need consideration for improvement.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH – FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The church fabric remains in good order and the quinquennial inspection has not revealed any serious defects, although a large number of small items will be addressed by us during 2016. The largest items for remedial work are repairs to the front roadside wall, resurfacing of the North Porch path, and restoring the war memorial. In 2015 we reached an agreement with Brandeston Hall School for the pruning of large trees and hedges to the south of the church, as it just outside the church boundary. This will benefit us with increased light levels and less damp of the southern walls of the church. No changes have occurred to the goods and ornaments although it should be noted that Mr. Harvey kindly donated a Victorian 1st day cover to match one currently owned by the church. We are most grateful for this gift.

LOES DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2015

As usual there were three meetings during the year. These were led by our new Rural Dean, Revd Canon Mark Sanders on the topics of spiritual and pastoral care, giving and the Parish Centenary Share and a session was held discussing how parishes engage with their communities. Other items of administration and information were dealt with.

There was also a deanery pilgrimage to St Paul's cathedral in London in August.

FUND-RAISING

There has also been a focus on fundraising events, which, as well as raising money for the church building, for charitable giving and for the parish share, serve to build strong links between the church and the local community.

- Village Breakfast, £217.37
- Music and Flowers £3027.43.
- Village fete £1695.64
- Bike ride £435.50
- The Christmas Fair £1261.91

CHARITABLE GIVING.

Suffolk Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£25
Bike ride donation to Suffolk Historic Churches' Trust.	£453.50

Nansambo donation	£200
Ipswich Night Shelter	£200
Children's Society (Christingle)	£65.16
St Elizabeth's Hospice (pub carol singing)	£108.60
FIND and Mills Meadow.	(Harvest festivals gifts from the parish and Brandeston Hall School)
FIND	(Christingle and Gift service) Christmas Presents



BRANDESTON BELLRINGERS

The bells continue to be in good condition and are widely used by a variety of ringers, as well as being used for Sunday ringing when services permit. We are most grateful to our local ringers for all their support, although it is with great sadness that Peter Arbon a long standing local ringer passed away in the spring. He was a great support of Brandeston ringing with his family before him, and a friend to all.

MORTUARY CHAPEL, MILL LANE, BRANDESTON

The chapel remains in good condition and has been decorated during the year. The churchyard has been maintained by local volunteers and is carefully mown to maintain the wildflowers in excellent condition, as advised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Plans of the graves at this site and All Saints churchyard are held by the church officers and have been regularly updated. We are most grateful for the help of J Garratt, D Risk and R. Ives and C McArthur for all their work.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report – 2015

The Receipts and Payments for 2015 show a profit of £1321.64 compared to a loss of £2368.40. The factors contributing to this outcome are, firstly, an increase in receipts of £2826.96. This is mainly due to an increase in fundraising of £2171.39. The Council deserve credit for this as they took the decision to have another 'major' event apart from the Summer Fete and Christmas Fair. This policy will need to continue if we are to raise similar amounts in future years. Secondly, payments fell by £863.08. This is very encouraging as not only did the church's expenses decrease but also we paid our Centenary share, £12000, in full and contributed an extra £1000 as there has been a considerable shortfall in meeting the Benefice target for 2015.

This means that the General Reserve now stands at £2101.92 and the Fabric Fund remains at £7358.91. The Caring and Cemetery funds stand at £163.62 and £110.31 respectively.

Brandeston PCC Annual Report for 2015

All Saints' Church , Brandeston - period ended 31st December 2015

Receipts and Payments

General Fund - Unrestricted

Receipts	£		£
	2014		2015
Planned Giving (Gift Aid)	3610.00		3610.00
Collections, Other Giving	3819.90		3967.08
Wall Safe	108.54		107.65
Donations	1982.08		1541.22
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	1485.29		1770.43
Fund Raising	4191.49		6262.88
Interest	0.00		0.00
Magazine	926.00		1041.00
Fees	2052.00		2727.00
Children's Activities	25.00		0.00
TOTAL	18200.30		21027.26
Payments	£		£
Grants - Overseas	678.16		200.00
Grants - Home	138.69		290.16
Centenary Share	13000.00		13000.00
Church Expenses	4670.66		3827.51
Clergy Expenses	608.53		594.33
Magazine	862.08		862.08
Summer Fete and Christmas Fair	20.00		59.54
Other Fundraising	132.58		0.00
Bank Charges	0.00		0.00
Fees	458.00		872.00
TOTAL	20568.70		19705.62
Excess of Payments over Receipts	2368.40	Excess of Receipts Over Payments	1321.64

Brandeston PCC Annual Report for 2015

Movement on Funds

General Reserve - Unrestricted

	2014		2015
Opening Balance - 01/01/2014	2863.31	Opening Balance - 01/01/2015	494.91
Excess of Payments over Receipts	2368.40	Excess of Receipts over Payments	1321.64
Closing Balance - 31/12/2014	494.91	Excess of Concert Fund	285.37
		Closing Balance - 31/12/2015	2101.92

Fabric Fund - Designated

Opening Balance - 01/01/2014	6388.91	Opening Balance - 01/01/2015	7538.91
Legacies	1150.00		
Closing Balance - 31/12/2014	7538.91	Closing Balance - 31/12/2015	7538.91

Cemetery Fund - Restricted

Opening Balance - 01/01/2014	90.31	Opening Balance - 01/01/2015	90.31
		Commonwealth War Graves	20.00
Closing Balance - 31/12/2014	90.31	Closing Balance - 31/12/2015	110.31

Concert Fund - Restricted

Opening Balance - 01/01/2014	0.00	Opening Balance - 01/01/2015	606.00
Concert monies	606.00	Receipts	313.00
Closing Balance - 31/12/2014	606.00	Payments	633.63
		Transfer to General Reserve	285.37
		Closing Balance - 31/12/2015	0.00

Caring Fund -Restricted

Opening Balance - 01/01/2014	263.62	Opening Balance - 01/01/2015	263.62
		Payment	100.00
Closing Balance - 31/12/2014	263.62	Closing Balance - 31/12/2015	163.62

Total Funds	8993.75		9914.76
--------------------	----------------	--	----------------

Thank You

Our special thanks go, this year, to all those people who have been involved in our fundraising events, such as the Music and Flowers event which was very much enjoyed by everyone and which drew on the goodwill of all those who helped and performed, as well as the staff of Brandeston Hall School, who made us welcome in the school grounds and supported us in so many ways. These people do not all regularly attend church services, but they have shown by their willing participation, that the church still holds a special place in their lives and we thank them for this.

The everyday care of the church continues and is still noticed by the many visitors to the church who comment on the high standards of its upkeep. It takes many people to keep a church running and we are fortunate to have such people in Brandeston who are willing to give up their time to keep the life of the church as well as the care of the building, and the churchyard, running smoothly.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way with services, with pastoral work by good neighbours- often unseen- with our charitable giving and with fundraising. We thank Mrs Butcher and the team who distribute the parish magazine; the flower arrangers who put on a beautiful display for the Music and Flowers event as well as their weekly arrangements; the bellringers and organists who are there for services large and small; the maintenance and cleaning team; those who prepare the church and welcome us to services; Mr Ritchie who audits our accounts; Mr Whiting, who braves the heights of the tower with the flags and Mr Risk for his work with the Electoral Roll and, with John Garratt and Richard Ives, the care of the Cemetery in Mill Lane and the trees of the two churchyards.

The staff at the Queen's Head continue to support us at the fete, to nourish us at the Christmas service and to welcome our carol singers and the school makes us welcome and gives all sorts of practical help whenever we need it.

Finally, our thanks go to the Revd Deirdre West and her colleagues who lead our worship and care for us when we need them. We value the time and attention that they give us in their busy lives.

