
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

Priest-in-charge:

The Revd Deidre West

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Banks:

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

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 2017.

Priest-in-Charge:	The Reverend Deidre West
Churchwardens:	Mrs Alison Molyneux Mrs Mary Baker (Elder)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Miss Eileen Leach MBE (Elder Emeritus) Mrs Alison Molyneux
Elected Members:	Mr Paul Baker (Treasurer) Lady Clemency Cunliffe Mrs Ruth Garratt (from 2013) Mrs Kelly Jeffery (Safeguarding) Mrs Marion Kirton from the 2016 APCM Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain) Mrs Lucy Nobbs up until the APCM 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 once this year in July to discuss the quinquennial report and consequent work to be done.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There were 1 baptism, 0 wedding and 2 funeral services in the church during the year.

Average attendance at Sunday services was 14 adults and 0 children.

On Easter Sunday at 8.30 there were 21 present including 19 communicants.

On Christmas Eve there were 70 present including 48 communicants.

The number on the electoral roll in December was 71.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full PCC met seven times during the year, with an average attendance of 73%. 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 Deirdre West or Christopher McArthur depending on Revd West's other commitments.

This year we continued with the theme of "Growing in God" and our benefice focus was to develop our existing work on the three goals of Growing Together, Growing in Number and Growing Younger while bearing in mind the remaining diocesan targets of Growing Deeper and Growing in Influence.

GROWING TOGETHER

The seven churches of Marlesford, Campsea Ashe, Hacheston and Parham, along with our long-standing partners in Kettleburgh and Easton, have continued to worship together on two Sundays each month. Regular worshippers are getting to know each other and progress has been made towards the formal grouping of the seven churches into a combined benefice to be called "Orebeck". In addition to worshipping together, we have gathered together for social events such as a very enjoyable garden party and held a combined Lent Course to get us all thinking more deeply about our faith. The aim is still that Revd Deirdre West will be able, on her retirement in August 2017, to hand over the reins of a strong and committed worshipping community.

GROWING IN NUMBER remains a challenge for all the churches of the benefice, but the benefice services have continued to attract a steady group of worshippers to all the seven churches. The number of services in Brandeston church is generally two per month with some extra services when the benefice meets together in Brandeston. It was good to see a significant increase in the average attendance and in the number of worshippers at the midnight service at Christmas.



GROWING YOUNGER is focused on those events which develop the link between the church and the young people of the benefice. There were fewer young people at this year's FrostFest event but it was very much enjoyed by those who did attend. Elders are involved in running the holiday club at Charsfield each summer. Numbers were slightly fewer this year but it still attracted a good number each day with children and older teenage helpers coming 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. Children and young people continue to attend the Palm Sunday service with the donkey procession, the Good Friday service, Mothering Sunday and Christingle services.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a constant theme for our PCC meetings. It is important that the parish share is paid and that the church is kept in good order and both these elements make considerable demands on the resources of the PCC. We are fortunate to be supported by so many people at the different events that we organize. The church events such as the fete and concerts are an excellent way of bringing people together and enhancing relationships as well as for raising money. In 2016 we worked very hard on fundraising with more events than in previous years. The first event of the year was the Brandeston Breakfast which attracted fewer customers than last year, so the date will be reconsidered in 2017, but it was still enjoyed by customers and by the hardworking helpers who shared a delicious breakfast after everyone else had gone home.

The idea of an Open Gardens weekend was discussed but no final date could be fixed, so it was reconsidered for next year as a shared event with the village hall committee to reduce demands on the congested village calendar and to sustain the theme of growing together with the village where we are fortunate to live. Instead of this a single open gardens was held at the Broadhurst by Lady Cunliffe with assistance from her family and friends in May. It was a most enjoyable and successful afternoon, raising £1869 for church funds.

The Fete was, as usual, a big day for all the village with the hall committee, led by Paul Baker, the church team, led by Chris McArthur and the pub team all working hard to make the event as successful as possible. The fete raised approximately £3500 to be shared between the church and village hall.

Janet Weston's concerts are always popular, drawing friends and family members of the choir as well as regular followers of the choir and people from the village to the audience. The refreshments afterwards are always welcome. It was an enjoyable way to raise £600.

The bike ride organized by Ruth and John Garratt always brings in welcome money for the church as well as for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Our thanks go to the organizers and the riders and to the church sitters. The bike ride raised £1100 to be divided equally between the church and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

A new event this year was the Safari Supper in September managed by Lydia Freeman and Jan Baldwin who recruited a strong group of hosts. It attracted a different clientele including new residents in the village. We all enjoyed our meals as well as the opportunity to visit houses that we'd not been to before and we raised £800 for church funds.

The year always ends with the Christmas Fair which gets a lot of support from the village. The PCC agreed closer liaison with dates of village events could be beneficial and Paul took this forward to Village Hall Management.

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

JANUARY

The Quinquennial Report was received. Works required are not significant compared with previous occasions, and are Category A £3500, Category B £9100 to £11100 and Category C £7500. In addition we have the North path reinstatement and the war memorial restoration. CMC will work on grants and a faculty in due course, and this could give us up to half of the costs back.

The PCC met college staff to discuss the yew hedge on the south boundary of the churchyard but in college ownership. They kindly agreed to cut it down to about ten feet over a period of two or three years. The meeting agreed to a nominal contribution of £100 as a gesture of good will.

It was agreed that the benefice service books could be used instead of the red communion books.

Stamps donated by Mr Harvey were received and will complement our own set. They hang in the vestry.

Letters of thanks received from Nansambo and Ipswich night shelter for our donations.

The Lent course programme was discussed.

MARCH

The annual report was approved in draft form ready for the APCM.

The electoral role update was completed by Mr Risk.

The date for the Recommissioning of church elders was agreed.

Mr Penny and Mr McArthur have been through the quinquennial report and a standing committee meeting was arranged to make decisions about the front wall, war memorial renovation and front path reconstruction.

APRIL (MEETING AFTER APCM)

Officers for the year 2016/17 were considered and agreed by all as follows :

Vice Chair – C. McArthur (prop. E Leach , sec. M Baker)

Secretary – M. Baker (prop. C McArthur, sec. R. Garratt). Note this is only a formality position for us and secretarial duties will be shared by other PCC members.

Treasurer – P Baker (prop. K Jeffery, sec. A Molyneux)

SUNDAY 22ND MAY EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

This meeting was held to consider our response to the letter from the Diocese concerning the proposed Union of the Benefice of Brandeston, Kettleburgh and Easton with the Benefice of Campsea Ashe, Marlesford, Hacheston and Parham.

It was proposed by Lady Cunliffe and seconded by Miss Leach that the draft Union of Benefices Measure 2011 be agreed. This was unanimously agreed.

The meeting requested that our response should include the requests that suitable clergy housing should be provided and that we should maintain separate PCCs for each parish within the new benefice.

JUNE

This was the first meeting for Marion Kirton; we welcomed her.

Safeguarding: Mrs Jeffery did not have items to report although it was noted that Chris had recently completed level 2 training and a DBS check, in relation to teaching youngsters the art of bell ringing.

It was felt by the meeting that planned giving relative to numbers on the church electoral role was low, and that we could ask them to commit to planned giving on a regular basis.

Quinquennial survey matters: Mr McArthur explained that the architect S.Claydon had done much work on preparing specifications for these repairs and cost were being worked out following builders prices being obtained. They are likely to be in the order of £12,000 and relate to general repairs, front wall restoration and war memorial refurbishment. The meeting agreed to reappoint our architect for this body of work and decisions on proceeding would be agreed by the standing committee in order that we make progress on starting the building works. However it was noted that repairs this time were relatively modest in comparison with the large sums raised for repairs previously. Grants may be sought for some parcels of work and village contributions requested.

JULY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The standing committee of our PCC met and decided on the approach/timescales for the church quinquennial repairs. The work was planned to be done in three stages.

The total of our priority A and B items has been costed at 12,461 including fees and VAT.

- interior and exterior repair work
- repairs to the North roadside wall
- war memorial restoration

SEPTEMBER

Work to the value of £5200 was being done including lime work on walls and security improvements and cleaning of windows. There were also some DIY projects such as renewing the gravel on the front path.

More work was planned for Spring 2017, to the value of £5200, including the repointing of the roadside wall. Bricks were ordered and grant aid was applied for.

NOVEMBER

Policies for Disability, Fire, Privacy and Bell ringing were approved.

It was agreed that the gravestones in the churchyard needed to be tidied.

Quotes of £5000 were received for repairs to the war memorial. This work was planned for summer 2017 and the village and the Parish Council will be asked to assist with this project.

War Memorial Event. It was suggested that we should hold an event related to the 1914-1918 war on the weekend of November 11th /12th 2017. This would be done in combination with the Parish Council and village and would include a display of historical artefacts and documents as well as the restoration of the war memorial. Funds raised from this event would go towards this project. The church would apply for grant aid.

MORTUARY CHAPEL

The day to day work of caring for the chapel continues to be carried out by the Friends of the Chapel while the PCC takes on responsibility for the churchyard. This year Mrs Pam Yates kindly offered to finance the installation of new and slightly wider gates to the chapel grounds in memory of her husband Malcolm, replacing the old rotten ones. These allow access by a small tractor for trimming of hedges and other upkeep tasks. A tidy up session in the Chapel churchyard was arranged for January using a team of volunteers.

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Jeffery reported that she was finding it increasingly difficult to attend the training sessions in her limited free time. It was suggested that Mrs Bennett-King, the safeguarding officer for the other churches in the benefice, should be asked to take on the roll for Brandeston. Revd West agreed to approach her. This was agreed by all. Mrs Jeffery was thanked for her contribution in this area.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH – FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

There are no changes to this section, although weekly cleaning by our volunteers continues and is much appreciated. Work has continued on improving security and police advice has been followed after a site meeting with them. A builder has subsequently enhanced a number of matters, after consultation with our architect. As a policy we continue to keep the main body of the church open at all times.

LOES DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2016

Following the June meeting Miss Leach gave an interesting report on the meeting that had been inspired by Bishop Mike talking about “Dwelling in the World”.

The September meeting focused on Rural Mission. A number of speakers spoke on themes such as:

Growing in depth-the Rural Dean spoke about getting closer to our communities,

Messy church in Wickham Market for 3 to 8 year olds –a church in its own right which is loud and busy, growing in number=working with families in Coombs,

growing in influence and service, Alister Gourlay spoke about opportunities for working with church schools, growing in number-working with community groups,

using what we have-Stephen Brian spoke about the church building as a resource,

Sharing rural mission-sharing ideas for how the Deanery might build on some of these ideas.

The meeting ended with a report on the Deanery and pastoral committee’s work towards the creation of a Deanery Plan

CHARITABLE GIVING.

Suffolk Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£25
Bike ride donation to Suffolk Historic Churches’ Trust.	£350
Children’s Society (Christingle)	£48.15
St Elizabeth’s Hospice (pub carol singing)	£113
FIND and Mills Meadow.	(Harvest festivals gifts from the parish and Brandeston Hall School)
FIND	(Christingle and Gift service) Christmas Presents

BRANDESTON BELLRINGERS

The bell ringers continue to ring for all available services and the bells remain in good order, although we have arranged for Taylors of Loughborough to do a full maintenance inspection. Thanks to J Garratt , H. Saxton, "The Oswalds", C. McArthur, J. O'Leary, R. Darton and P. Booth for being a loyal service band at Brandeston and Kettleburgh.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2016

It has been a difficult year for the Council.

Our income has fallen from £21027.26 to £18528.06. The main area of concern was the decline in collections at services and giving other than Gift Aid. There was also falls in Donations and Fees but these areas change year on year. On a positive note our efforts on fundraising totalled nearly £7000 – a fantastic effort.

There have been no great changes in our payments this year although it is good to report that they have decreased by £540.

The General Fund has been reduced to £1484.37 as a payment was made to meet Centenary share for 2016.

The Fabric Fund has been reduced to £2252.51 as we have paid the 1st phase of major repairs from the Quinquennial Report.

THANK YOU

The PCC would like to thank all the people who have worked on repairs to the fabric of the church this year. We particularly remember those professionals-the builders, craftsmen, electricians and the architect who worked so hard with Mr McArthur to get the necessary work done to a very high standard. We were fortunate that the repairs were not as onerous as in previous years, but they were still significant. Without the help of these people, the work could not have been done and the building would not be looking as good as it is now. Important support from the parish came in the form of financial aid from fundraising events, encouragement and practical work and all were equally important to us.

Alongside the building work, the normal life of the Church has continued. We would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way with services, pastoral work, charitable giving and fundraising. Mrs Butcher and the team who distribute the parish magazine; the flower arrangers whose work is admired by everybody; the bellringers and organists who enliven our worship; the maintenance and cleaning team; those who prepare the church and welcome us to services; Mr Ritchie who audits our accounts; Mr Whiting, who raises the flags and Mr Risk who keeps the Electoral Roll up to date as well as helping to tidy the Cemetery in Mill Lane.

The staff at the Queen's Head and the Village Hall Committee supported us all at the fete and those at Brandeston Hall have worked hard throughout the year to keep the grounds of the Church neat and tidy as well as allowing us to use their facilities when we need them and the photocopier for all the letters, orders of service and magazines. We thank them all for their cooperation and tolerance.

As always we would like to thank the 'good neighbours' from the local community, who lend a listening ear, give us encouragement and advice when we need it and who never fail to support our pastoral and fundraising work.

Finally, and most of all, we are grateful to all the members of the clergy, particularly the Revd Deirdre West who has worked tirelessly towards bringing us together as a benefice. She is always ready to listen and advise and to encourage us in our faith.