

St. Andrew's Church, Wickham Skeith
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
Year Ended December 31st, 2017

Administrative Information

St. Andrew's Church is situated in Church Lane, Wickham Skeith. It is part of the Bacton Benefice in the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served this year are:

Incumbent: Priest-in-Charge Revd. Val White
Assistant Curate Revd. David White

Reader: Mrs. Sheila Wright

Elders: Mr. Peter Paine
Mrs. Jean Willoughby

Wardens: Mrs. Liz Davidson
Miss Margaret Jones-Evans

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Mrs. Liz Davidson
Mrs. Mary Paine (PCC Secretary)

Elected Members: Mr. Philip Cutting (Treasurer)
Mrs Lesley Holland
Mr. Peter Paine
Mr. Oliver Richards
Mrs. Jean Willoughby (Vice-chair)
Mr. Ron Wright

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC Members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to enrol on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Andrew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Church Attendance

There were 52 on the Electoral Roll after the March 2017 revision, of whom 45 are resident within the parish and 7 live outside the parish. The average weekly attendance was just over 16 when all special services are discounted.

The average attendance during October 2017, when there were 4 services at St Andrew's, was 14. The Harvest collection resulted in £166.50 & a substantial amount of tinned & dried food being sent to the Stowmarket Food Bank and fresh garden produce to a local care home.

35 people came to the Remembrance service which was once again held in the village hall, the collection of £169 going to the British Legion.

64 came to the evening, candlelit, nine lessons and carols service on 17th December. The Christmas collections produced donations to Shelter totalling over £453 and the Christingle service plus collection boxes raised over £115 for the Children's Society.

2017 saw 4 funerals, 4 burials of cremated remains, 1 baptism and 2 weddings in church.

St Andrew's hosted 3 benefice services during 2017 with an average attendance of 34.

Review of the Year

The members of the PCC met four times during 2017 with occasional Standing Committee meetings to discuss matters mainly to do with the re-ordering project. The project has made slow progress as the architect has adapted plans to take account of suggestions made by the committee but by the end of the year the plans were being finalised ready for the submission of the Faculty application.

Sadly Revd Val White was on sick leave from February for 12 months and the service pattern was maintained by Revd David White but then regrettably he was also on sick leave from September. We were very fortunate that our normal pattern of services continued thanks to the Ministry team and some retired priests.

Unfortunately there are still some people who have not adjusted to the new rota of services, which has resulted in slightly lower attendances. Some still regret the reduction in communions but this has been partially addressed recently with the acknowledgement that 5th Sunday services at St Andrew's could become communions.

The Bishop has made it clear to clergy that he does not want extended communion except in exceptional circumstances.

Benefice services will continue to be held throughout August. Healing has continued to be offered at St Andrew's on the first Sunday of each month. Fund raising for the re-ordering continued during 2017 with at least one event in most months organised by the Fundraising Group. All events have been enthusiastically supported providing fun and happy social interaction as well as generous monetary support: the Open Gardens in May raised a little under £700, Sheila's Murder Mystery Evening raised a little over £500, a Quiz evening made just over £350, a Summer Pudding Evening made about £270, the Celebration of Weddings Weekend made £900, the Race Night total was

just under £550 and the Christmas Pudding Stir-up raised over £200. With the 'Pennies for the Loo' boxes, Margaret's regular Book Sale Coffee mornings, FOSA's money, a legacy and some generous donations our grand total now stands close to £60,000. When we obtain the faculty and detailed costings it will be possible to apply for grants.

FOSA still runs monthly bingo sessions in the village hall and in 2018 our biennial Flower festival, organised by Margaret Knights, will take place.

The Monday morning group continued to meet and to flourish.

Thanks once again go to all the people who contribute in so many ways to the life and upkeep of the Church community and building.

We also thank Ron Wright, our organist, and the members of the choir who give so much pleasure with their beautiful anthems for special occasions.

Stuart Wilson, too, deserves a special mention for keeping the churchyard so beautifully through the year. We were all devastated by the news of his accident in the autumn and he and his family are constantly in our prayers during his recovery.

Liz Davidson and Margaret Jones-Evans, our churchwardens, deserve thanks for all that they do but St Andrew's is a church whose welcoming atmosphere comes from all its members.