

2016 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Church Street Watford Northamptonshire NN6 7UR

St Peter and St Paul's Church is part of Brixworth Deanery in the Diocese of Peterborough (Church of England). Correspondence address: The Vicarage, 10 Hall Drive, Long Buckby, Northants NN6 7QU.

Aim and purposes

St Peter and St Paul Watford Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of *'cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Graham Collingridge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.'*

Objectives and activities

These include:

- ✠ Worship: a modern language Communion Service with hymns at 8.30am on the fourth (and, resources permitting, the second) Sundays in the month. This service attracts a number of people from outside the parish, particularly Long Buckby. We also hold a harvest festival, and an afternoon Remembrance Sunday service. The annual carol service attracts people from a wide area.
- ✠ We participate in the annual 'Ride and Stride' for the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.
- ✠ The Church is open Tues-Thursday each week 10 am-4 pm (from January 2017)

Achievements and performance 2016

The PCC met three times (and Standing Committee once) during the year. There were also several meetings of a planning group chaired by Dick Penney to develop a bid for a grant under the Heritage Lottery Fund.

PCC discussed the following issues:

- ✠ Quinquennial Report (February 2016) identified over £150,000 of essential repairs (chancel roof, drainage, rainwater goods, stonework, chancel windows, flooring) and £33,000 desirable repairs and improvements including toilet and servery. We were unsuccessful in an application to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund for gutters, drain and soakaway. Various essential matters including health and safety requirements were implemented.
- ✠ The Roof: on 11th April thieves removed lead from the nave roof (but were disturbed in the process and escaped). A temporary repair of plastic sheeting was made (cost £876). The PCC sold the lead through a registered dealer for £3,832, and received £8,626 in insurance. An estimate for a new roof in terne-coated steel is £34,400 (excl. VAT).
- ✠ A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to address the main issues in the Quinquennial report and replace the Nave roof was developed during 2016 (and a bid for £201,000 submitted in February 2017).
- ✠ Briefings to Parish Council: meetings and letters.
- ✠ Visit and report from Joseph Elders, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division: he did not recommend closure, but instead developing local partnerships to care for the church. The option to explore the church becoming a Festival Church was recommended.
- ✠ Chancel Repair Liability: the three landowners with CRL were advised of the current situation with the fabric. Legal support was also obtained from the Diocesan Registrar, and discussions continue into 2017.
- ✠ Events: as listed in 'Objectives and Activities'; several members of PCC also participated in the Watford Village Fayre on 4th September.
- ✠ The temporary reduction in services continued throughout 2016 as the Benefice was unable to recruit an Assistant Minister (House for Duty).

We would like to thank all those who give of their time so freely to support the church – both church members, and also others who value its role in the life of the community. We said 'thankyou' and 'goodbye' to Ross Spall, churchwarden, who moved away from the parish in 2016, but who continued to support the church, including through the 'Ride and Stride.' We are particularly thankful to Dan White, local historian, for his efforts to engage the local community, fundraising, and care of the churchyard. Dan (with the support of approx. ten local residents) has offered to keep the church open Tues-Thursday from January 2017. We are also thankful to Eleanor McEvedy, architect, for her advice and support during the lead theft and development of the bids for LPOW and HLF grants; and to Ben Smith, Historic Churches Officer in Peterborough Diocese.

Financial review (David Hiam)

The accounts for 2016 accompany this report. The Parish Share (£4,700) was paid in full. The Parish Share for 2017 is £5,011. Reserves policy: We will never voluntarily incur expenditure to bring the free reserves of the Church below the projected six months running costs (including the parish share).

The PCC: Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Charity with excepted status and does not need a Charity number. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, assistant priest, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The Benefice

St Peter and St Paul Watford is part of the United Benefice of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick. A ministry team of Vicar, Curate, Reader and retired minister from across the Benefice meet to plan services and a common scheme of readings and themes for preaching.

PCC members

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Vicar: The Reverend Graham Collingridge (Chairman)
Assistant Curate: The Reverend Andrew Smith (from June 2016)
Wardens: None (Joan Cockerill and Ross Spall until May 2016).

Elected members during 2016:

David Hiam (Treasurer) April 2016-2019
Bernadette Frost: March 2015 - 2018
Gordon Poole: March 2015 -2018
David Evans: March 2016-2017
Joan Cockerill: March 2016-2017
Dick Penney: until April 2016
Sandra Russell (Secretary and Deanery Synod representative) March 2014 -2017

Non-elected officer: Rebecca Hiam (Electoral roll)

NB: Watford should have 6 PCC members, elected for three years, and 1 Deanery Synod Member elected for three years. There will be four vacancies at the 2017 meeting: two for three years, one for two years, and one Deanery Synod for three years (two members should be elected each year for a three-year term to ensure continuity on the PCC).

This Report was approved by the PCC on



Reverend Graham Collingridge (PCC Chairman) *on behalf of the PCC.*