

2016 Annual Report: St Lawrence Long Buckby PCC

Each PCC is required to agree an annual report to be presented at the Annual Meeting. It has to comply with the requirements of the Charities Act and must be available and accessible to the general public.

St Lawrence's Church is situated in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. It is part of the Diocese of Peterborough (Church of England) and is in Brixworth Deanery. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 10 Hall Drive, Long Buckby, Northants NN6 7QU.

Aim and purposes

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, the Reverend Graham Collingridge, in '*promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.*' In addition to its Church building and closed churchyard (with an area for the interment of cremated remains) the PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the School Rooms which are used for a range of community and church activities.

Objectives and activities

In 2015 the PCC agreed the following mission statement: 'Jesus in everything we do and everywhere we are' and developed a Growth Action Plan. Our priorities for 2016/17 are: Faith in the village (engaging with our local community from a clear faith perspective; and identifying actions to support children's growth in faith); appoint a paid administrator; promote the use of the Schoolrooms and improve its fabric; make the church building more hospitable through provision of kitchen facilities; and in due course toilet, and flexible and comfortable seating.

Achievements and performance

The PCC considered the following issues during 2016:

- † Mission Support to CMS via two projects, Street Children in Honduras and FGM.
- † Review of Safeguarding policy
- † Assistant Minister – Advertising and preparation of profile.
- † Growth Action Plan – total review and development of work with children.
- † Fabric: roof alarm fitted, boiler house roof replaced.
- † Sound system in church reviewed and upgraded.
- † Reduction in Parish Share.
- † Review of Administration and appointment of paid Administrator.
- † Finance: Legacy policy developed and published; Parish and benefice Share; Giving in Grace Stewardship programme.
- † Sunday at 4 – Review of future and format.
- † Review of priorities for 2017/18 including faith in village, administration, Schoolroom working group, care & improvement of fabric, and make church buildings more hospitable and comfortable.
- † Future of Pop-in.
- † Events and future events planning.
- † Faculty applications; Production of Statement of Needs and Statement of Significance reports.
- † 'Thy Kingdom Come' – In support of Archbishop's 9 days of prayer.
- † Review of Arrow production.
- † Fund raising for 2016 and 2017 and allocation of monies raised; Concert in June; Art Exhibition; Joint October concert; Christmas Tree Festival; and Organ recital.
- † Review and use of church buildings and identification of projects for improvement.
- † Service pattern following non-appointment of Assistant Minister.

Ecumenical relationships

St Lawrence's meets with the Baptist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Churches to discuss mission and other matters of shared concern. We share the conduct of weekly assemblies at the Infant and Junior Schools with the Baptist Church, plus the leading of Easter and Christmas services for schools. Other joint initiatives with ecumenical partners have included the Remembrance Service and joint worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Pentecost. For the last two years, the Roman Catholic church have held a mass in St Lawrence just before Christmas.

Financial Report (Jane Smith, Treasurer, & Richard Howard)

Our total receipts for 2016 were £80,853 and the total outgoings were £78,719. We finished the year with a surplus of £2,134 despite a budget prediction of £2,100 deficit. Regular giving has remained fairly constant at £40,469, plate collections were £4,203 and £11,279 recovered through the Gift Aid scheme. A total of £2,538 has been raised with three concerts in the church, an art exhibition and a Christmas Tree Festival. At £46,470 the Parish Share continues to be the single major outgoing. During the year a total of £11,766 was spent on repairs and renewals which included a Sound System upgrade of £2,029 in the church and £7,363 on the Boiler House roof. At the end of the year our total monetary assets were £49,886 of which unrestricted funds were £33,993 and restricted/designated funds totalled £15,893. With a 6.2% increase in the Parish Share and the employment of a Parish Administrator the 2017 Budget predicts a deficit of £11,768 and again we have to rely on fund raising, legacies and donations to balance the books. Jane Smith became the sole Treasurer from June 2015. Richard Howard still assists with making payments to the bank, collecting and depositing weekly collections and envelopes to the bank and reclaiming Gift Aid monies from HMRC.

We would like to thank Mr Don Bird for examining the annual accounts and everyone for their hard work and generous financial support they give to the church. The PCC is committed to keeping the finances on a sound footing so that we can concentrate on promoting Christianity within the community and provide an opportunity for the church to prosper and grow.

Financial Reserve Policy (agreed 2015)

It is PCC Policy to try to maintain a balance which equates to 3 months unrestricted payments.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are too many to mention individually or even name the wide range of tasks and activities undertaken, not to mention the unseen support to individuals in need and the prayer offered up for God's work here.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC 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. At St Lawrence's the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Assistant Minister, Assistant Curate, two churchwardens, Reader (ex-officio following resolution at the APCM, nine members and up to three Deanery synod reps (who are ex-officio members,) elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The PCC appoints a treasurer and secretary and appoints a safeguarding officer who need not be a member of PCC. 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. All those who share in the life of the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during 2016. The PCC is required to have a Standing Committee meet three times during 2016 to review the Growth Action Plan and the fabric of the church and schoolrooms.

The Parish of St Lawrence Long Buckby is part of the United Benefice of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick. It was established formally in 2011, though the parishes had worked together informally since 2002. A ministry team of Vicar, Assistant Minister (vacant throughout 2016), Assistant Curate, Readers (Sandy Tringham retired in 2016) and an ordinand (moved away in June 2016) from across the Benefice have met together to plan services and a common scheme of readings and themes for preaching.

Administrative information

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

Ex Officio members:

Vicar:	Reverend Graham Collingridge (Chairman)
Assistant Minister:	Vacant
Wardens:	Richard Howard Judith Leach (January-April) Helen Baker (from April 2016)
Reader:	Richard Southey (ex-officio)

Elected members:

Geoff Moorhouse	2014-2017
Val Hardwick	2014-2017
Mike Leach	2014-2017
Sue Plant	2015-2018
Barbara Allen	2015-2018
Graham Simpson	2015-2018
Jane Smith (Treasurer)	2016-2019
2 vacancies	2016-2019

Chris Banks – Deanery Synod 2015 – 2017

Vacancies from April 2017: 5 x PCC (2x2yrs, 3x 3 years); 3 x Deanery Synod (2017-2020).

Non-elected:

Margaret Wardell:	Electoral Roll and Safeguarding Officer
Sue Plant:	PCC secretary elected from January 2017.

Report approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Graham Collingridge (PCC Chairman).