

## 2017 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).  
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### 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 morning prayer service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (resources permitting) and a Communion Service at 8.30am on the fourth Sunday in the month. We also hold a harvest festival, an afternoon Remembrance Sunday service, and 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-Sunday each week 10 am-4 pm
- ✠ During 2017 we have started to achieve a key objective of engaging with the local community to promote the heritage and to care for the building.

### Achievements and performance 2017

We all mourned the loss of Dick Penney who died on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Dick had made a major contribution to the restoration of the church fabric, especially the tower (completed 2013), and was chairing a group to bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant which submitted its bid in February 2017. On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 we learned that we had been awarded a "First Round Pass" (a development grant) of £13,400, which could rise to a total grant of £218,500 to replace the nave and chancel roofs, rainwater goods, drainage, stonework in the chancel, and install a toilet.

Another significant event of note was that on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the church was broken into and all the church silver was stolen, leaving also a broken window and damaged safe. Remarkably, the silver flagon and chalice were discovered in the undergrowth of Laundry Cottage on 31<sup>st</sup> December. At the date of this report these two items are still being repaired, a window repaired, and we have received an insurance pay-out for the remaining items including a replacement safe.

The PCC met 4 times during the year. There were also several meetings of a group chaired by Dick Penney to bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The PCC appointed Eleanor McEvedy as the architect for the project. Gordon Poole initially became project manager, and then Linda Ariss, a resident of Watford, succeeded Gordon in September 2017. A Heritage Committee was established. This Committee has overseen a programme of investigative works in preparation for the repairs identified above. In addition, Linda Ariss, with the assistance of Dan White, has helped develop a programme of community engagement and fund-raising events with remarkable success.

PCC discussed the following issues during 2017: agreed to a further, temporary (felt) nave roof; replacement keys for the church; agreement to opening up the crypt (but we learned the HLF grant won't fund this); Chancel Repair Liability – to take no further action at present; changing signatories for the bank account (from Clive Evans and Jenny Frost); agreed a legacy policy; secured the services of Mark Lane, Reader from Daventry to enable us to instate a morning prayer service on second Sunday of the month. In other church-related activities we witnessed the marriage of Edward Frost and Rebecca Hiam in the church on 17<sup>th</sup> June, and Revd Andrew Smith presided at his first communion at a Benefice service on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

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 are particularly thankful to Linda Ariss for her outstanding work in developing a programme of community events and managing the Heritage Lottery Fund project; and Dan White, for his efforts to engage the local community, fundraising, and the care of the churchyard. Linda and Dan have also enabled the church to be open most days. We are also thankful to Eleanor McEvedy, architect, for her advice and support during development of the HLF grants bid; and to Ben Smith, Historic Churches Officer in Peterborough Diocese.

### Financial review (David Hiam)

The accounts for 2017 accompany this report. The Parish Share (£5,011) was paid in full. The Parish Share for 2018 is £4,270 (we reduced our share as the Benefice relinquish its plan to recruit a replacement House for Duty post). 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 curate, 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 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

### **Ex Officio members:**

Vicar: The Reverend Graham Collingridge (Chairman)  
Assistant Curate: The Reverend Andrew Smith  
Wardens: None

### **Elected members during 2017:**

Bernadette Frost: March 2015 - 2018  
Gordon Poole: 2015 -2018 (resigned August 2017)  
David Hiam (Treasurer, Vice chair) 2016-2019  
Gill Bigley: 2017-2019  
David Evans: 2017 -2020  
Joan Cockerill: 2017 -2020  
Edward Frost: co-opted May 2017

Sandra Russell (Secretary and Deanery Synod representative) 2017-2020

Non-elected officer: Rebecca Hiam (Electoral roll)

Standing Committee: Revd Graham Collingridge, David Hiam, Edward Frost.

Heritage Committee: Revd Graham Collingridge, Joan Cockerill, Bernadette Frost, Edward Frost, David Hiam. Also in attendance: Eleanor McEvedie (architect); Ben Smith (Diocesan Historic Churches Officer); Linda Ariss (Project lead).

NB: Watford should have 6 PCC members, elected for three years, and 1 Deanery Synod Member elected for three years. There will be 2 vacancies at the 2018 meeting; and 2 vacancies for church wardens.

This Report was approved by the PCC on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018



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