

2018 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 cooperating 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.' We have a Growth Action Plan with the following priority areas for 2017/18:

1. Faith in the village. This includes engaging with our local community from a clear faith perspective; and identifying actions to support children's growth in faith
2. Administration: establish suitable arrangements, including option of paid administrator, to support our mission
3. Establish a Schoolrooms working group to:
 - a. Promote the use of the Schoolrooms
 - b. Care for / improve the fabric
4. 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 2017:

- Growth action plan
- 24 hours of Prayer in the school Rooms; and the Thy Kingdom Come/Nine Days of Prayer in church
- Ongoing Mission Support to CMS – Steve Poulson (Honduras) and Anne-Marie Wilson (combatting FGM)
- Statements of significance and need were developed for the development of church facilities
- School Rooms: lettings policy, a new fridge was installed, kitchen safety was addressed, window blinds were fitted, cupboards were repaired, damp-proofing and potential redevelopment was investigated by numerous experts.
- Appointed a Parish administrator
- Events: Hosted a Organ recital, St Lawrence singers concert, & Folk concert in Church; organised a Garden Party at Holly house; held an Art exhibition; and hosted a Christmas tree festival
- We repaired the Church organ
- Review of worship services pattern
- We funded and supported Lay pastoral minister (Val Howard) and lay worship leader (Judith Leach) training
- Spencer Benefice baptism cover
- The PCC has reviewed its Safeguarding Policy and complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

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. The Roman Catholic Church will hold a mass in St Lawrence on 5th April 2018, an annual service agreed by PPC in 2015.

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

Overview

The total receipts for 2017 were £88,706 and the total outgoings were £78,387. We finished the year with a surplus of £10,319, despite a budget prediction of a £11,768 deficit. The main reasons for this variance were donations to the church of £13,156, donations to mission of £3,438 and also additional service fees of £3,651.

Income

Regular Giving has remained fairly constant at £42,389, plate collections were down from £4,203 to £1,820 and £12,936 was recovered through the Gift Aid Scheme, with fund raising contributing £2,971.

Payments

At £49,368 the Parish Share was the largest outgoing. Repairs and Renewals to church and schoolroom totaled £7,288, which included £4,465 to repair the organ.

Monetary Assets

At the end of the year our total monetary assets were £61,777 (up £11,890 on last year), of which £38,020 is unrestricted and £23,757 in restricted/designated funds.

The budget for 2018 shows a deficit of £6,000 so we once again rely on fund raising, legacies and donations to balance the books.

The PCC would like to thank Jane for looking after our finances and we also thank Don Bird for examining the end of year Financial Statement yet again.

Finally, the PCC would like to thank everyone for the financial support they give to the church, however large or small; every penny counts and every penny is appreciated.

If we can keep the finances on a sound footing it will allow us to concentrate on promoting Christianity within our 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 Curate, two churchwardens, Reader (ex-officio following resolution at the APCM), nine members and 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 8 times during 2017. The PCC is required to have a Standing Committee, which met two times.

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, Assistant Curate, and Readers 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 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Vicar: Reverend Graham Collingridge (Chairman)
Assistant Minister: Vacant (post rescinded January 2018)
Assistant Curate: Reverend Andrew Smith
Wardens: Richard Howard
Helen Baker

Reader: Richard Southey (ex-officio)

Elected members:

Geoff Moorhouse: 2017-2020 (resigned March 2018)
Val Hardwick: 2017-2020
Sue Plant 2015-2018
Barbara Allen 2015-2018
Graham Simpson 2015-2018
Mary Simpson 2017-2020
Jane Smith (Treasurer) 2016-2019
2 vacancies 2016-2019

Chris Banks Deanery Synod 2017-2020

Vacancies from April 2018: 6 x PCC (3x 3 yrs; 1x 2 years; 2x1year); 2 x Deanery Synod (2017-2020).

Non-elected:

Sue Plant: PCC secretary

Margaret Wardell: Electoral role and Safeguarding officer

Report approved by the PCC on 20th March 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Reverend Graham Collingridge (PCC Chairman).