

## **Electoral Roll Report 2015-2016**

There are currently 205 members listed on the Electoral Roll, which is an increase of 7 compared to last year. Of these, approx. 60% are resident within the parish, which has not changed significantly.

Over the previous 12 months, 10 new individuals have been added to the list. Two people have been removed, and one member has died (Pastor Eckhard von Rabenau). Thus the total number has increased by 7.

*Fiona Richards*  
*February 2016.*

## **PCC Secretary's Report of PCC meetings March 2015 - March 2016.**

'A Parochial Church Council ("PCC") is at the very heart of each ecclesiastical parish and is the conduit through which much of the everyday church business operates' (taken from the Ely Diocese website). Whilst the 'everyday church business' is vital to the smooth running of the church, the PCC attempts also to look at wider issues within the Parish, Diocese and Church of England.

The minutes from PCC meetings, once approved, are attached to the notice board in the lobby and are available for the congregation and wider parish to read. There are also copies of the minutes held in the Parish Office and electronic copies held on Catriona's computer.

For the period March 2015 – March 2016, the PCC at St John's has consisted of:

*Revd. Canon Sue Wyatt	Vicar and Chair
Revd. Julie Gawthrope	Associate Priest until June 2015
Revd. Petra Shakeshaft	Curate
Revd. John Hillier	Honorary Clergy
*Derek Swanson	Churchwarden
*Michael Finsham	Churchwarden
*Roger Lilley	Treasurer
*Catriona Ball	PCC Secretary
Jean Swanson	Deanery Synod Representative 2014-2017
Rachel Gray	Elected 2013, stand down 2016
Helen Smith	Elected 2014, stand down 2017
Suzanne Barton	Elected 2014, stand down 2017
Sarah Philip	Elected 2014, stand down 2017
*Peter Tavner	Elected 2014, stand down 2017
Rick Buzzell	Elected 2015, stand down 2018
Alastair Wilkinson	Elected 2015, stand down 2018
Sheena Almqvist	Elected 2015, stand down 2018
Sian Binley	Elected 2015, stand down 2018

### Ex-officio members of the PCC:

*Peter West	Churchwarden Emeritus and Health & Safety Officer
Elizabeth Trenchard	Organist and Director of Music

Special thanks go to Rachel Gray as she stands down at the end of her three years of office.

In accordance with Rule 13 of Church Representation Rules, some members of the PCC are appointed to a Standing Committee, which has powers to transact the business of the PCC between the meetings. These people are marked with an asterisk \* in the above list. The standing committee has been convened on two occasions in the past year; to be informed that YEAST was to be meeting off-site and to consider aspects of the design of the new Nave Table before a meeting with the company involved in the construction of the table.

The PCC has held seven meetings during this year. In general, each meeting consists of one major topic for discussion alongside regular agenda items, which include: finance, Churchwarden's report, Health and Safety, Mission Action Planning, Deanery Synod report and other subcommittee reports such as Admin and management, Children, Youth and Child Protection.

Some of the topics for discussion by the PCC this year have been:

- Small group discussions of the important strategy areas for the church that the MAP team had identified. These focused particularly on our church as part of the wider community and turned out to match closely the 'levers of change' in the Diocesan strategy, which was published later in the year.
- Discussion of proposals put forward by the MAP team to further the identified priorities.
- The refugee crisis
- Development of the Legacy Leaflet
- Plans for the new Nave table
- Development of an Accessibility policy
- Kitchen refurbishment
- Potential plans for the development of an accessible disabled toilet and other modifications, which would lead to increased accessibility of the church as a whole.

*Catriona Ball, PCC Secretary  
February 2016*

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS.**

We make the following report for the period.

Our thanks are due again to Peter West (Churchwarden Emeritus) for all the support he has given us over the past year.

Our thanks too go to all of those volunteers who give invaluable help to enable the Church to run smoothly throughout the year.

The Church Inventory will be checked in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This will include a report of any new items added to the Inventory and any items not found.

A summary of works:

- (1) Annual maintenance of the hedges on the Hills Road and Blinco Grove boundaries;
- (2) Various minor works to maintain the fabric of the church;
- (3) Repairs to minor vandalism to the windows on the north side of the nave.

We confirm that the Church Insurance Policy is with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

We confirm that the Church Log Book is up to date, signed and dated.

We submitted a Request for a Faculty to replace the nave altar table with a new table designed by Joseph Saunders. Following no objections, the Faculty was granted on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 by the Registrar of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Ely. The work is underway and is due to be completed during the first half of 2016. Thanks are due to Joseph Saunders for his work to create a design for this table for and for coordinating works to create the finished product.

A Maintenance Day was held in the Autumn of 2015. The work undertaken was mostly in the Church grounds. Following discussions with the PCC, it was decided to take down the flagpole in the front garden as it was becoming unstable and had not been used for many years. A 2016 Spring Maintenance day is due to be arranged.

A process has begun to replace all the lights in the Church with LED. These produce a stronger light and should last longer before they require replacement. As LED lighting on this scale is a relatively new technology, this should future proof our lighting for many years to come.

Teams have been working on a project to refurbish the kitchen and toilets in the Wilkinson Room area and improve disabled access to the church. In addition to new kitchen units, cooker and dishwashers, we plan to raise the level of the courtyard to allow access into the kitchen corridor. This is currently in the fundraising phase and we hope to complete all the works in this calendar year.

We were informed during the year that our Church Architect, Jamie Griffith, has retired. We have appointed as his successor another architect from the same practice, Karen Lim.

*Derek Swanson  
Michael Fincham  
Churchwardens, February 2016*

## **St John the Evangelist: Treasurer's report for the APCM 2016**

After all the financial worries we have had over the last three years it is good to be able to report on a year when not only did our income and expenses match what we had budgeted for but we were also able to retain a small surplus. In addition, our donations to good causes at home and overseas has reached almost 10% of our total income and a significant increase in real terms over the previous year.

When making comments on our general church finances it is proper to exclude those funds donated under the restricted heading since this is money that has been given for specific purposes rather than for general expenses. However, as you are well aware, a major appeal has been launched to which we are asking you to donate so that we can improve our buildings. As these funds are raised and then used, they shall also be shown under the restricted heading but broken out so that you can see in the accounts for this and the following years exactly how the funds in this appeal have been managed.

The Balance Sheet shows that at the end of 2015 the church had funds of £76,000. This may have prompted some of you to ask why we need a special appeal. The reason is that much of these funds is already earmarked to secure and protect the future of the church. Our Strategic Reserve is our emergency fund, one that we would have had to call on a year or so ago had not the congregation increase its regular donations to meet our running costs in the light of the collapse of our lettings income. The Quinquennial Works Fund is our attempt to set aside the money that will be required when we are forced to pay for major structural repairs such as a new roof. That day will inevitably come and it is vital that we plan now how we will fund that work. So our ability to find resources in our general church account to put towards other projects is very limited.

Other points I would like to make are that whilst our income from regular donors rose significantly a couple of years ago, it has very slightly dipped again in 2015. It is very important that we see annual rises in this income that at least keep pace with inflation otherwise we shall face problems in years to come. As predicted, letting income fell to a new low. I hope that this is as low as it will get; we all need to work at finding more users of the community rooms, a resource that is very important to our church but which should be used by the wider community as well. It is good to see that repairs and maintenance costs have come down a little from last year. The fact that we do not delay paying for repair and improvement work whenever it is needed is, I am sure, why we are rarely faced with unexpected costs. We have also seen the expenses of printing fall following the acquisition of our own photocopier machine a year ago.

I have already pointed out our success at raising money for other charities. We have held several special events to raise money for charities this year including a concert and a tea party. The Overseas Mission committee also decided to use some of its surplus funds for a major donation to Christian Aid and will continue make such one-off donations if funds are available. Our thanks to all who have supported these events.

I do wish to thank those who help in financial matters: Sheena for recording, calculating and collecting gift aid receipts, a complex and vital part of our income, the many sides-persons who ensure that service collections are counted and recorded, Peter and Lynn in the office for the organisation of the lettings and counting of the coffee money, Cherry for handling the magazine subscriptions, and everyone who does their little bit to make my life as treasurer easier. As always, I am very happy to answer question about our finances, either now, or at any stage throughout the year.

*RGL January 2016*

## **APCM Deanery Synod Report**

The South Deanery Synod has only met twice since the last APCM

The May meeting had a low attendance for a presentation by Rev Canon Nigel Cooper, chaplain at ARU and Diocesan Environmental Officer on “Flooding and Climate change; what is predicted for Cambridgeshire and the world, and how the church can contribute to resilience.” There was general information about climate change and how churches can respond to flooding situation. This mainly applies in rural Cambridgeshire but the need to be a community hub and to work with local authorities and voluntary groups was a useful point for us to consider for any emergency situation.

I was unable to be at the October Meeting which was an open meeting entitled “Archdeacons' People Fully Alive: Ely 2025 - Autumn Roadshow” and followed the Diocesan strategy discussions earlier in the year.

In November the Bishop announced that The Reverend Tim Harling, Chaplain at Queen’s College, Cambridge will be Interim Rural Dean of Cambridge South Deanery.

*Jean Swanson*