

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

Annual Reports

and

Financial Statement

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2008

Priest-in-charge:

The Reverend Harry Edwards

Assistant priest:

The Reverend Robin Alderson

The Cloisters

Priory Road

Snape

Bank:

Barclays Bank p.l.c.

Suffolk Coastal Group

4 Church Street

Woodbridge

Suffolk

IP12 1DJ

Independent Examiner:

Mr Graham Rice

Westerling

Low Street

Brandeston

Woodbridge

Suffolk

IP13 7AQ

All Saints' Church – Annual Report

Aims and Objectives:

All Saints' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Harry Edwards, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. [PCC (powers) Measure 1956 Section 2]. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Cemetery Chapel and graveyard.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council:

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC. Their term of office, excluding the priest-in-charge, ends at the APCM in 2009.

Priest-in-Charge:	The Reverend Harry Edwards
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Robin Alderson
Churchwardens:	Miss Eileen Leach MBE (Elder) Mrs Alison Molyneux
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr David Drummond } Mrs Wilda Woodland } Shared role up to 2011
Elected Members:	Mrs Mary Baker (Secretary and Elder) Mr Paul Baker (Treasurer) Mrs Nancy Demetriadi Dr Anthony Fletcher (Elder) up to May 2008 Mr John Garratt (Trees Officer) Mrs Kelly Jeffery Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain) Mrs Christine Matthews Mrs Mary Moore
Co-opted member	Lady Clemency Cunliffe from April 2008

Committees

The PCC operates three official committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are the Standing Committee, the Friends of the Mortuary Chapel and the Fund-raising Committee

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject only to directions given by the Council. It did not meet in 2008.

Church Attendance

There were 0 baptisms, 1 wedding, 3 funeral services, 1 thanksgiving service and 1 interment of ashes in the Church during the year.

At the Family Service in October there were 30 adults and 26 children, including Brandeston Hall. This was also the Harvest Festival.

The Brandeston Hall Harvest Festival service was attended by 196 children and 26 adults.

On the second Sunday in October there were 12 adults at 8am

On the third Sunday in October there were 12 adults and 1 child at 11am

On the fourth Sunday in October there were 15 adults for the evening service.

On Easter Sunday there were 42 adults and 9 children.

The Christmas services were well attended with 65 people at the Christmas Eve Communion service including 2 under 16s and 48 communicants.

A new electoral roll was compiled for the APCM in 2008. The number on the roll in April was 43. This means that we are only allowed to send one voting representative to Deanery Synod meetings.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 88%.

There were two additional meetings, one to discuss the fete and a joint meeting with Kettleburgh and Easton PCCs.

The PCC reverted to its usual format after the interregnum, with The Revd Robin Alderson settling into his role as Assistant Priest, with responsibility for our benefice. The main features of our discussions at this year's meetings have been the role of the church in the community, finances and fund raising. There has been less emphasis on restoration since the work done for the last quinquennial review has been completed. A sad loss to the PCC was caused by the death of Dr Anthony Fletcher, who had served the Church loyally, as a Churchwarden, Elder and PCC member over many years. His loss was most particularly felt by the elderly and sick members of the community who were visited by Anthony at home and in hospital.

One of the most important events of the year was a joint meeting of the three PCCs in our group. This meeting addressed issues related to the church's role in the community. It considered how we can make services appropriate for different groups among our congregations and how the lay members can support the clergy with services and pastoral work. The opportunity to work with the other PCCs was appreciated and one outcome was the purchase of new hymn books to be used in all three churches. An initiative set up following the meeting was the use of a prayer table in the church. This is available for use by members of the congregation and visitors or local people who may not wish to attend services.

Another important occasion was the joint service for the whole of the benefice, held at Parham at the end of November. This was very successful, both as a religious and a social celebration.

A change to the law, relaxing the rules concerning residency in the parish, means that there may be an increase in the number of weddings taking place at Brandeston church.

The parish magazine is now being both typed and edited by Mrs Val Butcher, of Kettleburgh. She would appreciate some assistance if anyone can give her some time.

Fabric, goods and ornaments

This year we have not undertaken any planned restoration and the church remains in good order, with no defects evident. A full survey will be undertaken in 2009 as part of the quinquennial inspection by our architect.

Minor issues dealt with during the year include repairs to our central heating boiler and clearing the roof gutters.

Two seats have been installed in the churchyard, by PCC members, in memory of Mr and Mrs Dickson and Miss C. Gallienne.

We are very grateful for the continued excellent upkeep of the churchyard by the Brandeston School staff; it is very much appreciated.

In addition to the two benches, in memory of George and Margaret Dickson and the Gallienne family, the church has received other gifts. There have been several generous financial donations to the Church; some of these were given in memory of local parishioners who have died during the past year.

Mrs Demetriadi has kindly embroidered a lectern fall and a pulpit fall to be used alongside the altar frontal which she had previously made.

Friends of the Mortuary Chapel

The Austin tomb in the cemetery churchyard has been renovated by Jeff Hogan using the original bricks, with gratefully-received financial support from descendants of the Austin family. Work on clearing the churchyard has been carried out by John Garratt, David Risk, and some visiting sheep! The cheese and wine party in December raised £355.

Fund-raising

The main event of the year, the village fete, gave rise to some discussion this year when it was suggested by the village hall committee that it should be held in the grounds of the Queen's Head, rather than at the village hall. There have been ongoing discussions about improving communications with the village hall committee since this event. The fete itself was a great social success, drawing on a wider clientele than usual since it was arranged to coincide with a beer festival held at the pub. The PCC acknowledges the financial success of the fete and the enormous support given by the pub to the church at numerous events, such as the midnight Christmas services, the carol singing and the fete. The pub was also the venue a visit by the bishop to the community as he got to know his new diocese in April.

Other fundraising events have met with mixed success. On October 12th Chris Parfitt gave a very interesting talk entitled "Antarctic Odyssey". He illustrated this with his own slides, taken whilst on a two week trip to the Antarctic. The ladies of the PCC contributed to a wonderful tea as usual, but in spite of this, the event was poorly attended, raising only £180. However, those who came had a most enjoyable time.

The bike ride in September, was a great success. Again, ably organised by Ruth Garratt it, raised £350 for us and a further £350 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The Christmas Fair was also an enjoyable event, but rather disappointing financially, with only £919.24 being raised, compared to a high point of £1,378.80 in 2006.

Children's work

This year we have noticed a slight decrease in the number of children coming regularly to church. This has, however, been offset by those special events, such as the Christingle service and the Harvest Festival, that still attract large numbers of families. The Christingle service was held in the evening this year and was attended by Brandeston Hall. The atmosphere was enhanced by the darkness outside. The staff and children of the school continue to make a major contribution to the services that they attend. Their presence is always welcome. In addition to Sunday services, the school uses the church at least once a week for assemblies.

Child protection has been expanded to include prevention of abuse and safeguarding for all vulnerable members of the congregation. No incidents have been reported.

Charitable giving is important to the church. Members of the church give their time and money in many ways for the benefit of the church and the community. The PCC, on behalf of the Church, makes financial donations to:

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust,
The Historic Churches Preservation Trust,
Nansambo School Fund,
Water Aid.

We also passed on collections and donations made:

at the Queen's Head carol service to St Elizabeth's Hospice

at the Christingle service to the Children's Society

at the crib service to the The Ormiston Trust.

at the Harvest Festival to the Ormiston Trust and Lehmann House.

The gifts have all been very well received, particularly by The Ormiston Trust and Lehmann House who always let us know how they have been used.

Music

After 10 years of loyal service, Colin Matthews has reduced his commitment to organ playing; he still plays for us, but not every Sunday. We are fortunate to have Mrs Janet Weston to take over the services that he has left.

The Kettleburgh choir visit us for occasional services.

We have also introduced a new hymn book, Hymns Old and New, which covers the full range of hymns required for our services and catalogues them so that hymns can be located easily to fit the themes for the day.

Bell ringing

We continue to ring the bells for all the Sunday services with a local band, comprised of Christopher McArthur (Tower Captain) , Persephone Booth , John Garratt , Ruth Garratt, Peter Arbon, Anne Hayward , Helen Saxton, Chris Oswald, Ruth Darton and Jayne O'Leary, Hilary Stearn.

The practice night has ceased this winter, although our ringers attend other local ringing practices to maintain their skills.

We all enjoyed Christmas ringing and the New Year was rung in with much merriment and expectation from villagers.

We would like to thank all our ringers for much commitment and support throughout the year.

The bells remain in good working order with no work required on them, apart from the twice yearly inspection.

Flower Arrangers. Nancy Demetriadi writes:

This is my annual thank you to all the flower arrangers in the village who help to keep our church looking lovely. It couldn't be done without you. Thank you to the few people who unfailingly come to help at festivals: Easter, Harvest and Christmas, when we make a special effort. We have been asked to do three weddings so far for later this year, two of them on the same day! Lastly, my annual cry to any new arrivals in the village-if you enjoy arranging flowers I'd love to hear from you. You don't need to be an expert.

Deanery Synod Report for 2008 The Deanery Secretary reports:

In 2008 the Deanery Synod met in March, June and October. The subject of the March meeting at Framlingham was Deanery Matters, including a DVD presentation on the Deanery Plans. One part of the plan is to continue the three Deanery services each year, to bring all parts of the Deanery together for worship. The Deanery purchased a transportable Powerpoint projector screen for use anywhere in the Deanery, a projector having been purchased in a previous year.

As usual at the end of the meeting there were reports from the Treasurer, from Diocesan Synod, Bishops' Council, General Synod, the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Deanery Organiser. A recurrent plea was made from the Deanery Organiser for parishes to pay their parish share as promptly as possible and if possible by standing order so that payments are received regularly (as clergy salaries and pensions have to be paid regularly)!

At the June meeting at Badingham the speaker was Mrs Sue Young who spoke about Migration and Refugees. The talk cleared up a number of misapprehensions about the number and status of immigrants, and made attendees think about what the Bible has to say on the subject. In July there was a Deanery Summer Drinks Party at Framlingham Rectory. This annual occasion enables Deanery representatives to meet in a more informal manner and is a useful networking event.

During the summer Peter and Lynda Markland moved away from the area and their places as Deanery Treasurer and Deanery Secretary were taken up by Antony Wilson and Jane Woodbury-Eggins respectively.

The last meeting of the year was in October at Monewden. The subject was Domestic Violence and Abuse and was ably led by members of the domestic abuse awareness team. The statistics and facts given to the meeting were even more shocking than expected. The causes and types of abuse were also outlined. Leaflets and contact numbers were given out so that Synod members could pass them on to those seeking help. They were also encouraged to pass on information to their PCCs.

Tree Report

The trees around the church are all in good condition, the seven lime trees bordering the road have had their lower branches trimmed for clearance during grass cutting. The black poplar has had some minor pruning carried out. The large beech tree in the S.E. corner of the churchyard has a lot of heavy growth at the crown and a request has been made to the SCDC for a tree officer to view it and to give some guidance about trimming, if necessary.

At the chapel, the scots pines and oaks are all looking healthy, including the black poplar, planted in 2007 at the NE end. The hedging, planted at the same time to fill in gaps, has taken and should grow quickly in the coming year. The height of the boundary hedge should be reduced to 1.5metres, to help with maintenance; this will be dealt with in 2009. Mr Compton's sheep did a grand job in keeping the grass down in May, and the first orchids appeared in early June. By 20th June 50 had been counted.

The Parochial Church Council would like to thank the Revd Robin Alderson, at the end of his first full year in the benefice, for all his inspiration and encouragement . We also thank all those people from Brandeston and the surrounding area, who continue to contribute to the life of the church in Brandeston and further afield. These people give time, their skills and their money to assist us in caring for the church buildings and grounds, preparing for services, raising funds and supporting charities.

We thank all the people who help with tasks within and around the church. The flower arrangers, singers and organists, cleaning team and bellringers; those who prepare the church for services; Mr Rice who audits our accounts; Mr Matthews and Mrs Weston who play the organ; Mr Whiting, who raises the flags and Mr Risk who has given up his time to create the new Electoral Roll this year as well as helping to tidy the cemetery in Mill Lane.

The Queen's Head and Brandeston Hall, as the two major employers of the village, have both given us enormous support, with fundraising and social events. The school staff care for the grounds of the church and encourage their children to take an active part in our services. Both the pub and the school have provided us with refreshments, run stalls at fetes and the Christmas Fair and supplied us with extra customers.

In addition to this, there are the many people in the community, who show through their contribution to village life, that they really do "love their neighbours".

Whoever you are and whatever the tasks you carry out, the Parochial Church Council offers its thanks and appreciation of your efforts.

Brandeston PCC Annual Report for 2008

RECEIPTS- 2008

	2008	2007
Planned Giving (Gift Aid)	3570.00	3875.00
Collections, Other Giving and Legacies	3871.27	4199.76
Income Tax Recovered	1498.10	1618.65
Donations	2178.00	2029.00
Summer Fete & Christmas Fair	2514.51	1077.70
Other Fundraising Events	771.73	661.50
Bank Interest	168.43	166.90
Sale of Magazine	781.25	698.80
Fees	993.00	552.00
TOTAL	16346.29	TOTAL 14879.31

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<u>PAYMENTS-2008</u>	2008		2007
Grants - overseas	225.00		75.00
- Home Missions & Relief Agencies	240.13		632.89
Diocesan Quota	9309.00		11177.00
Church Running Expenses	2501.57		2655.69
Clergy Expenses	323.51		444.68
Cost of Services	194.02		86.00
Printing the Magazine	540.60		488.65
Organist's fee	0.00		0.00
Summer Fete & Christmas Fair Expenses	52.50		100.00
Other Fundraising Expenses	51.25		105.00
Bank Charges	40.00		40.00
V.A.T. Refund	-1669.83		0.00
		TOTAL	15804.91
	11807.75	TOTAL	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	4538.54		-925.60
Funds			
Caring	263.62		263.62
Cemetery	122.78		157.78
General Reserve	309.07		309.07
Fabric	12526.31		7987.77
	13221.78		8718.24

