

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

Annual Reports

and

Financial Statement

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

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**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 2010, except where noted and excluding the priest-in-charge and assistant priest.

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)  
  Lady Clemency Cunliffe  
  Mrs Nancy Demetriadi  
  Mr John Garratt (Trees Officer)  
  Mrs Kelly Jeffery  
  Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain)  
  Mrs Christine Matthews  
  Mrs Mary Moore

## **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 2009.

### **Church Attendance**

There were 5 baptisms, 1 service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, 3 weddings, and 2 funeral services in the Church during the year.

At the Family Service in October there were 44 adults and 50 children, including Brandeston Hall. This was also the Harvest Festival.

On the second Sunday in October there were 16 adults at 8am

On the third Sunday in October there were 6 adults at 11am

On the fourth Sunday in October there were 14 adults for the evening service.

On Easter Sunday there were 32 present including 29 communicants.

On Christmas Eve there were 90 present including 71 communicants.

The number on the electoral roll in December was 41. This means that we are still 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 89%. There were two additional meetings, one in June to discuss the fete and one in December to be informed of the continuation of the Right of Presentation and to approve the recommissioning of the Church Elders, Miss Leach and Mrs Baker.

The PCC had a settled year under the chairmanship of Revd Alderson, with Lady Cunliffe taking an elected place on the PCC rather than her previous co-opted position. Mrs Woodland and Mr Drummond continue to share the role of Deanery Synod representative. Fund-raising continues to be one of the main subjects for discussion as the church is faced by ever-increasing demands on its finances. We have been fortunate that the church continues to be in good repair so that limited attention to structural work has been necessary.

The other main areas of development for the PCC were the links with the Nansambo School Trust in Malawi and, closer to home, our links with the six other churches in our benefice. The church has developed its links with the Nansambo School Trust and the

congregation was delighted to welcome members of the Tobin family to Family Service on All Saints' Day. The talk that they gave and the pictures that they showed us gave us all an idea of the challenges that they face, the importance of our prayers and the value of our financial support .

A very successful event was the Beating of the Bounds led by Steve Western who also spoke about this tradition at the APCM. Everyone who took part, and their dogs, had a memorable day and the sense of community was greatly strengthened by the experience.

The churches of the benefice have started to establish a pattern of services so that members of the different churches can have frequent opportunities to worship together. Members of each church also attend meetings of the benefice council to plan future projects and share ideas.

The parish magazine continues to be an important method of communication with the residents of the villages. Articles are always welcomed by the compiler, Mrs Val Butcher, of Kettleburgh, who, with the delivery team, works very hard to keep the news and information flowing. She is always open to offers of help.

### **Fabric, goods and ornaments**

#### **Church Fabric**

During the year the church remained in good condition with no running repairs being necessary. The quinquennial inspection is due in 2010 and all the priority items from the previous inspection have been completed. The PCC has been carefully rebuilding its fabric fund in order that we can finance the next round of repairs.

The interior decoration of the church remains an issue, although it is more a cosmetic matter for church users. The good condition of the church is enhanced by an annual cleaning session, carried out by many members of the church community and augmented by energetic people from the village who, though not regular worshippers in the church congregation, still value the building and wish to see it maintained in the best possible condition for the future.

The church architect remains Stephen Claydon of Woodbridge, although it should be noted that he is independent of architects Mullins Dowse and Partners, from the end of 2009.

The churchyard and fixtures remain in good condition, with an additional hardwood memorial bench added during the year by the family of Dr Anthony Fletcher. A gift of a carved crib scene was gratefully received from the Tobin family who gave it to us on behalf of the Nansambo School Trust in recognition of our support.

### **Friends of the Mortuary Chapel**

The Chapel is structurally sound and the only maintenance carried out during the year was to replace about 30 broken tiles and the pointing of the tiles along the east wall. The Candler Evening was very successful, bringing in a profit of £385.60.

### **Tree report**

In the Chapel Cemetery the 7 large pines and the 6 oaks are all in good condition. The black poplar, which was planted in 2007, following the loss of another one, has survived. The grass in the lower half of the cemetery has been kept trimmed and, by late May, there were over 100 pyramid orchids to be seen. The grass around the gravestones was trimmed, as the sheep that we had planned for were not available.

Mr Risk is to be thanked for his help with the maintenance and hedging. The north and east boundary hedges need to be reduced in height to make maintenance easier; we will arrange this in the autumn, when the crop in the adjoining field has been harvested.

In the Churchyard there are 17 trees. 16 of these are healthy and in good condition. The 17<sup>th</sup>, the horse chestnut by the war memorial, is being monitored because of decay near its base. It was topped in 2007 because of its weight, rather than being felled. Our thanks go to the Brandeston Hall groundsmen for trimming the six lime trees by the roadside wall to give clearance for grass cutting. The yew hedging round the heating fuel storage tank has also been trimmed.

### **Fund-raising**

The village fete, held at the Queen's Head again, was a great success for the Church and the village hall. It was good to see so many people, locals and visitors, enjoying themselves and spending money for a good cause. The staff of the pub bring their facilities and professional support to the whole occasion. The total raised for the church this year was £2,143 with an equal amount going to the Village Hall funds.

The bike ride in September, was a great success thanks to the efforts of Ruth and John Garratt. It raised £400 for us and a further £400 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Everyone worked hard to ensure that the Christmas Fair was much more successful, both socially and financially than the previous year, raising a total of £1,337 for PCC funds.

A big boost to our fundraising was the recipe book, organised by Mrs Fletcher and supported by Lady Cunliffe. Many people were involved in its production, and the PCC are grateful to them for their hard work, imagination, cooking talent and generosity. Starting at the Christmas Fair alone, £440 has, so far, been raised through the sale of recipe books.

### Gardeners' Question-time

The fund-raising committee organised a Gardeners' Question-time in May. There were 4 speakers, each experts in their fields of trees, shrubs, perennials and vegetables. The panel was ably chaired by Alaster Chapman and a splendid array of savoury snacks was provided in the interval. The event raised £260 for the PCC funds.

### Children's work

The church continues to hold family services once a month and Common Worship family communion services once a month. These services do not attract large congregations, apart from those occasions when numbers are augmented by the pupils and staff of Brandeston Hall, but there are always some children at the family service and we are building links with some of the newer and younger families in the village. It was a pleasure to see one of these children choosing to be baptised this year. The family communion is very much valued by those who do attend. It has developed into a service with a very special character and atmosphere. Numbers at important events such as Harvest and Christingle have increased. When the school attends the family services, they always play an important part in the worship. They continue to use the church for special events.

### Safeguarding

This area now includes prevention of abuse and safeguarding for all vulnerable members of the congregation. Mrs Jeffery is the contact point for dealing with any disclosures. 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, has made the following donations:

£25 to the Suffolk Historic Churches' Trust

£50 to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust

In addition to this we have given £215 to the Nansambo Fund

It was agreed that we should also give the collection from the All Saints' Day service to the Nansambo fund.

This takes our total giving to over £300.

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.

at the Remembrance Day service to the Royal British Legion.

## Music

Mrs Janet Weston has played for the majority of our services this year with Mr Matthews continuing to play for some of the services. We are fortunate to have two proficient organists within our congregation. The new hymn book has given us the opportunity to think about new words and to learn some new tunes and this has added considerably to the meaning of our services. Occasional visits by the Kettleburgh choir give a welcome boost to the singing for important services. The Church continues to be used for concerts and organ workshops,

## Bell ringing

We continue to ring the bells for the services on regular basis and in addition for weddings and funerals when requested. We have an excellent band of local ringers and method ringing on Sundays is now regularly achieved. Our thanks for their service ringing without exception are noted. The Tower Captain remains Christopher McArthur, but sadly after twenty years of Thursday practice night, we have now decided to suspend the practice because of ringers' other commitments.

The bells remain in good condition with only minor adjustments to the number two bell's clapper being necessary during the year. The tenor rope is now very worn and will need replacing during 2010, otherwise no repairs or maintenance are anticipated.

## Flower Arrangers. Nancy Demetriadi writes:

The flower arrangers continue to make our church look inviting and beautiful throughout the year, as well as undertaking commissions for special events such as weddings, christenings and thanksgiving services. We did three weddings in 2009 (two on the same day!) and already have four bookings for 2010. We charge a fee for this service, which goes entirely to church funds as a donation.

At present we have nine regular flower arrangers, who do the flowers weekly in rotation, and we would gladly welcome more volunteers. We warmly welcome Mrs Goldie-Morrison, who has recently joined us. We are a cheerful and harmonious group.

As usual, my grateful thanks go to all of you, who so generously give your time to this project.

## Deanery Synod Report for 2009

Three meetings were held.



The March meeting at Debenham concentrated on Deanery Curiosities which was most instructive and interesting. Presentations were made by nine of the churches and ranged from a Parham lemon squeezer, stocks and font from Hacheston, Marlesford's mouse signature reading desk through to Easton's Wingfield pews, and our Henry VIII glass.

(left)

Mr Anthony Wilson, the Deanery Organiser stated that only 8% of 29009's Parish Share had been received, regular instalments should be paid throughout the year. The Bishop's proposal to enlarge or amalgamate Deaneries was discussed: Loes is middle sized and preferred the status quo. A retirement service was to be held for Archdeacon Geoffrey Arrand in the Cathedral.

No one was in charge of youth activities.

In June we met at Ashfield and a talk on Christian Aid was given by Chris Wilkes. This charity started in 1945, in 1949 became part of the World Council of Churches with 39 denominations working together. 1964 saw the beginning of Christian Aid Week, the main fund raising event, which concentrates on helping some of the world's poorest countries. Climate change already affects the poor through lack of food, water and the spread of disease. The organisation tries to cover emergency relief, long term projects and training.

The Treasurer said that there was a budget for youth work; suggestions for its use would be welcome. It was announced the Revd. Canon Dr. Judy Hunt had been appointed Archdeacon of Suffolk and Ipswich.

The October meeting was held at Framlingham where Cathy Blair headed a team presentation, The Church's Healing Ministry. Healing has always been an important part of the Gospel and today, with so much pain in the world, it has become of greater consequence. People concerned with St. Matthew's Triangle Church, Ipswich and others from Hartismere, Worlingham and Bosmere talked of their experiences.

Afterwards the Deanery Organiser led a discussion on the allocation of Parish Share: by the end of September 65% had been paid rather than 75%. A meeting of Treasurers had been told of a 4.4% increase for 2010, which would result in much larger increases than this for some benefices. Eventually it was decided that another Treasurers' meeting was necessary before ratification. This further meeting resulted in an overall increase of 4.4%.



## Thank you

The Parochial Church Council continues to appreciate the contribution of many local people in the maintenance and running of the Church and the many associated events and activities. First, we would like to thank the Revd Robin Alderson for all his hard work and spiritual support throughout the year. He has been a great comfort to many people in the village.

The people of the village, and many from the neighbouring villages give us a huge amount of support both financially and in practical ways. They help us enormously with our fundraising, our charitable giving, with services and maintenance work.

Among the many local people who help us are Mrs Butcher and the team who distribute the parish magazine; Mr Morgan who puts all our material on the village website; the flower arrangers, singers and organists; the cleaning team and bellringers; those who prepare the church for services; Mr Rice who audits our accounts; Mrs Weston and Mr Matthews who play the organ; Mr Whiting, who raises the flags and Mr Risk who keeps the Electoral Roll up to date as well as helping to tidy the cemetery in Mill Lane. The village hall committee and supporters also work with us to make the fete the success that it is.

The Queen's Head and Brandeston Hall continue to give us enormous support, with fundraising and social events. The school staff always ensure that the grounds of the church look immaculate; the children bring life to our services and we are welcomed into the school when we need to use their facilities in preparation for services. The pub provide us with an excellent venue for the fete and carol singing and provide us with refreshments after the midnight service at Christmas. 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.

The people of the church congregation alone, cannot do everything that we would like to do. We are grateful to the many people in the community, who care for those in need, within the village and beyond: 'the good neighbours'.

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