

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

**Annual Reports
and
Financial Statement
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2010**

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 Patrick Ritchie
12 Andrew Burtt's Close
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IP13 9TD

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

We are here...

- To worship God
- To nurture believers
- To serve the community

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: Mrs Wilda Woodland
(shared roll) Mr David Drummond (up to April)
Mr Don Evans (from October)

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 (Safeguarding)
Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain)
Mrs Christine Matthews (up to April)
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 met on 26th August 2010 to discuss maintenance and the quinquennial report.

Church Attendance

There were 4 baptisms, 5 weddings, and 1 funeral services in the Church during the year. At the Family Service in October there were 15 adults and 12 children, including Brandeston Hall.

On the second Sunday in October there were 11 adults at 8am
On the third Sunday in October there were 101 adults and 17 children at 2 services, one Holy Communion service at 10am followed by a Family service with baptism.
On the fourth Sunday in October there were 19 adults for Evensong.
On Easter Sunday there were 27 present including 26 communicants.
On Christmas Eve there were 72 present including 42 communicants.
The number on the electoral roll in December was 57.
A small decrease in some services from last year is balanced by increases in others.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 83%. There were three additional meetings, in April and May to discuss the fete and in November to plan the Christmas Fair.

There were some changes to the membership of the PCC during the year, Mrs Matthews did not seek re-election at the APCM and Mr Drummond gave up his membership as he no longer wished to be Deanery Synod representative. Both these members made a valuable contribution to our discussions and their service was appreciated by everybody. Mr Don Evans kindly offered to take up the position of Deanery Synod representative and joined the PCC in the autumn.

The main topic for discussion at meetings has been the restoration work highlighted by the recent quinquennial review. This has led to discussions about fund-raising for repairs and for the payment of the Parish Share. There have been other important areas of discussion and development. One of the successes of the year was the tea party following the Harvest Festival.

All Saints' continues its link with the Nansambo School Trust in Malawi. We have made another donation to the Trust which will help to pay for work at the primary school and sponsorship of four of its pupils through high school and we continue to receive regular updates from the Tobin family who have immediate contact with the project. This information is published in the magazine and on the village website.

The members of the churches of the benefice have had more opportunities to worship together throughout the year and the friendships that have developed through these services have been strengthened by Lent meetings and through the Alpha course. The discussions at these meetings have been energetic and thoughtful and have led to a deeper understanding of our faith.

In addition to the parish magazine, the church is making more use of the village website to let people know what it is doing. The minutes of meetings, after approval, are placed on the website along with the magazine and records of church affairs such as the work being done in Nansambo. Digital photographs of church events are always welcome.

Fabric, goods and ornaments

All Saints church restoration and maintenance
In May 2010 we were passed the quinquennial report by our church architect Stephen Claydon. That report details many issues that need rectifying as a priority although it should

be noted that there are no serious structural problems. Copies of that report are available for loan, and the "Specification for Repairs", from Christopher McArthur.

We are currently applying for a faculty and going out to tender for works in excess of £30,000 that will be jointly funded from our fabric fund and external grant bodies. This work will be undertaken during the later part of 2011.

In summary the works includes-

Church heating improvements, external drainage repairs for surface water disposal, stonework replacement, repairs to plasterwork and new guttering.

Inside the church chancel walls will be repaired and redecorated, lighting improved, insect infestation treated, and maintenance to the tower carried out, including the provision of rope guides in the ringing chamber.

Completion of all of these items will be dependent on our financial provision and deferment of lower priority items may be necessary. However we are confident from our previous projects that significant grant funding will be available.

During the year we signed up with the diocesan maintenance scheme for churches, and this provides gutter and drainage cleaning twice a year at an advantageous price. With our many fine trees around the church such a service will be an enhancement.

The kneelers have become famous, appearing on a website <http://www.parishkneelers.co.uk> as an example of the work done by local people to make our church beautiful and as a record of significant local events and local people. Some of the kneelers have been repaired during the year and some have been photographed to create postcards for sale at the church.

Tree Report: Churchyard

All the trees are in good condition. Some work is required on the Beech and the Black Poplar, in the North East corner, to give the Cedar Tree more clearance, this will have to be carried out by a Specialist Tree Worker. Regarding the Horse Chestnut near the Memorial, which has a diseased trunk. Following discussions with the S.C.D.C. Tree Officer in 2007, the crown was removed to reduce the height and weight, thus reducing the wind pressure, this tree looks healthy but is being monitored.

Grass Cutting has been regularly carried out by Brandeston Hall Ground Staff, for which we are extremely grateful.

Friends of the Mortuary Chapel

The Christmas Supper was well supported again, in spite of the snow, and over £300 was raised.

A few minor repairs need to be carried out internally in the Summer, and all the outside fabric is in good condition.

We have a healthy balance in our Santander Deposit Account of £2236.

Tree Report: Chapel Cemetery

All the trees are in good condition, including the Black Poplar planted in 2007, after the loss of the first one in 2004.

The North and Eastern hedges are due to be reduced in height, when the crops have been cleared on the adjoining field, also dead Elms are to be removed from the South Hedge. Grass cutting has been carried out with the help of David Risk and Chris McArthur. We had a good show of orchids this year, and up to 75 were counted in June.

Fund-raising

The village fete was held in June, again at the Queen's Head. A great deal of effort went into the event and we had a most successful day. Over £4900 was raised which was split equally between the Church and the Village Hall.

The bike ride in September had a very good year thanks to the organisational efforts of Ruth and John Garratt. In addition to them, some individual cyclists and sponsors made very generous contributions resulting in a total of £1262- £631 for us and a further £631 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. This event is a particularly reliable and valued fundraiser. The church is very appreciative of the annual effort made by its dedicated participants.

Due to the adverse wintery conditions, the Christmas Bazaar was postponed from the beginning of December, but a mini-bazaar took place on two consecutive Thursday mornings alongside the regular coffee morning. This was a most successful event and over £900 was raised to support the fabric of our historic church. The PCC were very grateful to the organisers and regulars of the coffee morning for their welcome and co-operation.

Children's work

The family services are supported by a group of local families and by Brandeston Hall School as well as regular members of the congregation. The boarders from the school join in with enthusiasm during our services and members of the staff help with the organisation of activities. We are working with the school to plan services so that they coincide with dates when the boarders will be present. The local families too are always happy to participate in elements of the services. Highlights of the year continue to be services such as Christingle, Christmas services and the Harvest Festival, with the Good Friday service offering an opportunity for adults and children to reflect on the significance of the day. The school also uses the church building as a valuable resource in the teaching of RE and History.

Safeguarding

This area includes prevention of abuse and safeguarding for all vulnerable members of the congregation. Mrs Jeffery continues to be the contact point for dealing with any disclosures. No incidents have been reported.

Charitable giving

This 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:

Suffolk Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£25
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£50
Nansambo School Trust	£225

This takes our total planned 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.

Music

All Saints' Church, despite the size of the village, has gained a reputation for lively and tuneful musical offerings led by the welcoming peal of bells that ring out for most services and weddings.

The resident organists, Janet Weston and Colin Matthews, coax even the most reticent of singers with lively hymns and thoughtfully planned music to welcome the incoming and outgoing congregations at several services a month.

Five weddings were celebrated during 2010 with several visiting instrumentalists and vocalists adding to the celebrations. Brandeston Hall's Junior Choir sang very lustily at the wedding of their Director of Sport. The "Morning Chorus" ladies' choir and a superb young viola player performed in August with a vocal duo in March.

The highlight of the musical offerings for 2010 was for the All Saints' patronal festival with visiting choral conductor Bill Gloyn, a friend of the Revd Robin Alderson, who brought along a good number of very accomplished adult choristers to swell the sound and expertise of the Combined Greater Benefice Choir. They sang a beautiful anthem by John Stainer and raised the roof with lovely tuneful hymns and the Introit.

Kettleburgh Choral group have added their prayerful singing to various services of Communion during the year.

The Christmas services: Christingle, Crib and Midnight have been well-received and also lustily sung by good sized congregations.

2011 should be another varied year to look forward to with several summer weddings already booked and planned.

Brandeston bell ringers

The bells at Brandeston continue to be rung on a regular basis for the Sunday services with local ringers providing the band. The Thursday night practice night no longer continues but is now on an ad hoc basis on Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings, to accommodate new ringers who reside in London during the week. Three new ringers are a welcome addition although in total with Kettleburgh we have a total of sixteen active ringers over a great age range. Many thanks to them all for their support with us, particularly at the busy times of major festivals.

The bells remain in good condition with the only maintenance needed being the replacement of one stay during the year. They continue to be popular with visitors and peal ringers as a venue, and in excess of £100 is our income from visitors' fees passed to the PCC from such activities.

Flower Arrangers.

After many years of flower arranging, Mrs Demetriadi has cut back on her work, although her contribution and that of the other flower arrangers keeps the church looking as beautiful as ever, especially for important events. We do need a new coordinator to continue Mrs Demetriadi's work. For the time being, we are not organising the wedding flower scheme but we are hoping that, in the future, this may be revived.

Deanery Synod Report for 2010

Three meetings were held.

In March the Rural Dean, the Revd Graham Owen gave a presentation, "Music in Small Churches". He dealt with difficulties such as the lack of an organist and the absence of live music. Valuable information on CDs of hymn tunes was given.

A minute's silence was held for Mrs Grace Allen, Deanery Treasurer, for over thirty years. A report from the Bishop's Council stated that 97% of the parish share for 2009 had been paid. A lengthy discussion took place about the 2011 parish share.

The June meeting was held at Campsea Ashe. Three talks were given: "Church Bells and Heritage" was presented by Jonathan Stevens. This was followed by Tim Holmes, Church bell project co-ordinator Campsea Ashe parish, who spoke about bell restoration work taking place there. Sadly, in September, four of these bells were stolen from Dorset where they had been sent for repair. They have not been recovered but the loss is covered by insurance.

The third speaker was the newly appointed Church Tourism Officer, Marion Welham. She urged encouragement of church visitors and suggested that the churchyard might make a good picnic site. A meditative walk around the church together with prayer cards, a church guide for children or I spy cards might be appreciated.

It was reported that at the Diocesan Synod meeting, Nicholas Edgell, the Diocesan Secretary, had spoken about projected losses of Stipendiary Clergy. In 2011 there should be 146, but this had been cut by 4 which had not been anticipated. A loss of 13 stipendiary priests is possible by 2014, leaving 133 at that date.

The October meeting concentrated on vocations. An interesting and informative talk was given by Mrs Christine Amjad-Ali, principal of the Diocesan Ministry course. Lectures entitled: "Exploring Vocation" will be held in Ipswich during the summer.

Mr Peter Keeble, the new Deanery Treasurer, reported that eight parishes had failed to pay their subscriptions for the year. Mr John Bradfield, the Parham representative, said that the parish might not be able to pay their parish share for 2010. It was stated that the problem for some was getting worse. The Loes Deanery quota (share) has risen by twice the Diocesan quota. This difficulty will be raised with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

During the year, Brandeston's electoral roll has risen to 57 so we now need two representatives again. Mr David Drummond, who has been our representative since 2001, has decided to withdraw. In his place we welcome Mr Don Evans.

All Saints Church Brandeston

Treasurer's report and notes to the accounts Period ended 31st December 2010

The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Funds for which the PCC are responsible are made up of two restricted funds,

The Caring fund and the Cemetery fund and two unrestricted funds the Fabric fund and the General reserve. Restricted funds are where the giver has specified on what the funds may be spent, the PCC is legally obliged to follow the wishes of the donor in this respect. Unrestricted funds are those received or generated by donors and supporters and have no restriction as to what they might be spent on, providing it falls within the objects of the PCC. These are expended at the discretion of the PCC.

All the receipts generated this year, £23,696.77 after deducting expenditure totalling £17,714.46, have been credited to the Fabric fund. This has increased the Fabric fund and the overall funding by £5,982.31.

Receipts in year 2010 which were similar as to source to year 2009 showed a 13.8 % increase. Expenses also similar to the previous year showed a 9.5% increase.

The assets of the funds are held in a Barclays current account £5,973.86 and a Barclays deposit account £17,678.86. At the 31st December 2010 there were £2,148.12 of unpresented cheques and £913.86 of unlodged receipts. All these sums cleared the bank in January.

**All Saints Church Brandeston
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2010**

Statement of Funds

Unrestricted Funds

	2010	2009
Fabric Fund	22,985.81	17,003.50
General Reserve	309.07	309.07
Total	23,294.88	17,312.57

Restricted Funds

Caring Fund	263.62	263.62
Cemetery Fund	94.31	94.31
Total	357.93	357.93

Total of all Funds	23,652.81	17,670.50
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**Represented
by**

Barclays Business Saver Account	17,678.95	15,373.31
Barclays Community Account	5,973.86	2,297.19
Total	23,652.81	17,670.50

Thank you

The PCC would like to say “Thank you” to everybody who has helped with any aspect of Church life over the last year and, often, many previous years.

It takes the time and effort of many people to keep a church running efficiently and All Saints is fortunate to be able to draw on the skills and hard work of a wide cross-section of the members of our local community. Not all of them are actively involved in the religious life of the Church, but they all recognise the importance of the Church within the village. Without them the maintenance of the church, its pastoral work, charitable giving and its fundraising would be impossible.

There are many local people who help us: Mrs Butcher and the team who distribute the parish magazine; the flower arrangers who always make the church look beautiful; Mrs Woodland who keeps an eye on items of historical importance for the church and who, with her team of helpers, has maintained and restored the kneelers; the bellringers, organists and musicians who perform in the church and add so much to the meaning of our services; the maintenance and cleaning team; those who prepare the church and welcome us to services; Mr Ritchie who audits our accounts; Mr Whiting, who ventures up the church tower to raise the flags and Mr Risk who keeps the Electoral Roll up to date as well as helping to tidy the cemetery in Mill Lane.

We are particularly grateful to the staff of the Queen’s Head and of Brandeston Hall School who go out of their way to help us in so many ways. The school provides groundsmen to keep the churchyard looking immaculate and encourages the children to participate in services while the pub gives us an ideal venue for carol singing and for the most important fundraising event of the year, the village fete, as well as offering refreshments after the midnight service at Christmas. Another valued group within the village are the village hall committee and supporters who share the organisation of the fete, help us with our communications through the village website and encourage such a strong community spirit.

We are grateful to the many people in the community, who care for those in need, within the village and beyond: ‘the good neighbours’. Most of all we are grateful to all the members of the clergy, particularly the Revd Robin Alderson and the Revd Harry Edwards, who have led our services, encouraged us on our spiritual journey and supported us in times of need.