

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON

**Annual Reports
and
Financial Statement
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2011**

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
Framlingham
Suffolk
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 2012, 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 Mr Don Evans
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 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 three times: in January to approve spending on restoration; on 6th May when it discussed potential grants, accepted the contract from the architect and started work on the appeal. At the third meeting on 6th September 2011 it discussed a reduction in building work costs, the parish share and cash flow.

Church Attendance

There were 0 baptisms, 4 weddings, and 2 funeral services in the Church during the year.
On the first Sunday in October there were 10 adults and 14 children.
On the second Sunday in October there were 14 adults.
On the third Sunday in October there were 8 adults and 2 children.
On the fourth Sunday in October there were 18 adults.
On Easter Sunday there were 53 present including 40 communicants.
On Christmas Eve there were 82 present including 70 communicants.
The number on the electoral roll in December was 55.

The numbers attending these services this year showed an encouraging increase over the previous year, disregarding one extra baptism service last year.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 82%. There were four additional meetings, 2 joint meetings with the village hall committee in April and May to discuss the fete, a meeting in October to plan the Christmas Fair and an open meeting in April.

There were no changes to the membership of the PCC during the year. The number of members of the electoral roll means that both Mrs Woodland and Mr Evans can serve on the Deanery Synod rather than sharing the role.

This year the PCC have been occupied by the need to raise funds for the restoration work required in the Church. Much of the money raised has come from grants, but the PCC were delighted by the response to an appeal to members of the church and the parish. Their generous donations have made a huge difference to the work that could be done. The PCC is very aware that fund-raising needs to continue throughout the five yearly cycle of inspections so that repairs and the parish share can be met in full.

Other matters have been discussed, such as at the open meeting in April where we talked in depth about the Bishop's charge and the shape and role of the church in the future. This discussion has been echoed at meetings of the deanery synod. The arrangements for women bishops and the reorganisation of the deanery have also been discussed in detail.

This year the Harvest Festival service was preceded by tea and cakes in the church. The atmosphere was one of celebration in keeping with the thanksgiving element of the service.

All Saints' continues its link with the Nansambo School Trust in Malawi-we have kept in touch with Sue Tobin who visited the Nansambo area for 15 days at the start of the year. We also have overseas links through Harriet Molyneux. The collection from one of our services went towards her work among the people of Sierra Leone.

The Alpha course ended with a celebration party, but the links between the members of the course have continued to develop and have served to strengthen the relationship between the churches of the benefice. The course has been succeeded by a Bible study group that meets once a month, at different venues, to study texts from the lectionary. The successful Lent group too, brought people together to learn and reflect. There has been more celebration at

the Greater Benefice services where members of all the seven parishes continue to worship together and enjoy each other's company.

Information about church events continues to be included on the village website.

All Saints Church – Fabric, goods and ornaments.

This year has been busy with the implementation of the quinquennial actions from May 2010 report produced by the church architect S. Claydon.

Fund raising in the first half of 2011 was very successful, with £21,000 from grant making bodies and the remainder of the £45,000 total for repairs, coming from local fund raising and gifts. Following a village appeal for restoration funds, £5646 was raised.

Our builders Cubbitt Theobald started work in September and most of the repairs were completed by the year end. These include: lime wash to exterior walls, stonework replacement, new louvres, window repairs, guttering realignment, and drainage works. Defective internal plaster has been removed in the chancel and will be replaced in the spring of 2012 when the walls have dried out for redecoration.

Both priests' chairs have been improved and repaired. The North Porch bench has been sent away for specialist repair as it was close to collapse; we are very grateful to Lady Cunliffe for part funding this particular repair.

The path to the school from the North Porch has been replaced as it was in a precarious state and now is looking splendid with new kerbs, drainage and pea shingle running surface. Members of the PCC helped with this part of the project and we are indebted to Framlingham College for providing practical and financial help for the construction.

In the belfry we have had rope guides fitted by Taylors bell foundry, and these are of great benefit to the new bell ringers and a most welcomed addition.

The church heating system has been improved this year by adding new and swapping other radiators, to maximise extra heating from the oil fired boiler. These have worked well, although in extreme weather our church struggles to achieve comfortable temperatures.

The majority of the quinquennial repairs have now been completed and the church is now in a state of good repair. It should be noted that it is with some sadness that for the first time the PCC had to forgo most of our quota payments in 2011, to allow our building contractors accounts to be met.

Tree Report: Churchyard

The majority of the trees are in good condition, but the red horse chestnut near the war memorial is diseased at the base and the large beech tree on the east boundary has some

damaged branches at the crown. The S.C.D.C. tree officer has been to inspect them and his report is as follows:

Beech tree

The two branches high within the canopy which showed evidence of some rot did not appear too critical. However, in view of the size and age of the tree, together with its lean and weight distribution, it might be advisable for a tree surgeon to carry out a climbing inspection. Whilst doing so, some judicious reduction of the weight in the low canopy on the west side of the tree could be carried out along with the removal of any dead wood.

Monitor the health of the tree particularly in the autumn when fruiting bodies of fungi might be evident at or near the base of the tree.

Red flowering horse chestnut

This tree contains some rot at its base close to the site of the swollen cankers that typically affect this species. The vigour of the tree appeared a little low and it would be beneficial to cut the ivy which is present and to monitor its future health. If the rot becomes more extensive and its health declines further, the removal of the tree and replacement planting may be the best option.

Yew tree hedge on south side of church

As discussed, it will be in order for some of the extended branches to growing towards the church to be cut back to allow an increase in light levels within the church.

The work to the yews and the beech as outlined above, can proceed on this occasion without the need for formal Conservation Area notification, but it would be helpful if I could be kept informed of the timing if and when it is to be done.

On the south boundary with the hall, there is a problem with yew trees reducing light levels in the church. Following discussions with the S.C.D.C. tree officer, the matter has now been discussed with the groundsmen at the Hall who have kindly agreed to do the necessary work.

Friends of the Mortuary Chapel

Once again the Christmas Supper was well supported again, raising £352 so that the funds now stand at £2545.

Work this year includes repairs to heaters.

Tree Report: Chapel Cemetery

All the trees are in good condition within the boundary and a few dead ones have been removed on the south boundary. The boundary hedges on the north and east have been reduced in size by a contractor for ease of maintenance in the future.

The footpath has been cut at regular intervals during the year. The first orchids appeared in late April, and by late May over 40 were counted.

The grass at the lower end of the cemetery was cut in September and the top end in the new year.

Thank you to David Risk and Chris McArthur for their help with maintenance work over the last twelve months.

Fund-raising

The first major fund-raising event of the year was an Open Garden afternoon at the Broadhurst. Lord and Lady Cunliffe, with their team of helpers worked very hard over the months leading up to the day to prepare their garden and all the plants on the stalls and to coordinate all the visiting stallholders with their array of arts and crafts. It was a beautiful day and the garden looked magnificent. The marquee was used for a special Rogation Sunday service in the morning. The event raised £2400.

The Fete committee were delighted with the outcome of the day. The event raised over £4700 and as usual, it was a very enjoyable occasion, with the staff of the Queen's Head, the PCC and the village hall committees working together to ensure that everyone had a good day as well as spending their money. As usual, the total was divided between the Church and the Village Hall.

Once again Mr and Mrs Garratt organised a successful bike ride in September. The PCC are most appreciative of their efforts and of the efforts of all the cyclists, helpers and sponsors. Some individual cyclists and sponsors made very generous contributions resulting in a total of £874- £437 for us and a further £437 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Following last year's wintery conditions, this year's Christmas Bazaar was a great success, raising £1500, a new record. The event included some art and craft stalls which added a new dimension to the familiar arrangements and brought in some new customers. There was a steady flow of customers throughout the afternoon and the event was a social, as well as a financial success. All the money raised was allocated to the work on the fabric of the church.

Children's work

The numbers of children at the regular church services is smaller than it was, but the children who do attend, particularly those from Brandeston Hall, join in the activities at their the services with energy and enthusiasm and take away with them the lessons about Jesus that they have learned. The work that they do during the services is displayed at the back of the church for everyone to see and adds a special dimension of praise and thanksgiving to the church building. The special services such as Harvest, and the various services at Christmas and Easter, still attract a number of families from the village who wish to retain their link with the church and to pass on the Christian traditions to their children. The carol singing at the Queen's Head draws on even more people and was very well attended this year.

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

Although we have needed to focus on raising money for ourselves this year, we have still been able to make donations to charities through special services and events. This includes:

Suffolk Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£25
Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£50

Harriet Molyneux	£257.15
Royal British Legion (remembrance)	£310.97
Children's Society (Christingle)	£109.80
St Elizabeth's Hospice (Carols at the Queen's Head)	
Ormiston Trust and Lehmann House. (Harvest Festival)	Gifts
Ormiston Trust. (crib service)	Gifts
Japan Appeal	£250

It was agreed that we would make no further donations this year, as we need to fulfil our commitments for repairs and the parish share.

Brandeston Bellringers

Regular Sunday ringing continues at our church thanks to the continuing efforts of local ringers, including those from Kettleburgh. A high standard of ringing continues to be achieved, although we cannot emulate the famous Brandeston peal ringers of 1749.

On the 24th June local ringers rang a quarter peal to celebrate the end of sixty years of ringing by Peter Arbon, a magnificent achievement. All our ringers joined Peter for a joyful supper in the Queens Head afterwards. Peter has followed a family tradition of ringing in this village, with his father being tower captain previously. All our ringers will fondly remember the pleasant company of Peter on these ringing occasions, and the many stories of days gone past.

The new ringers from the Oswald family have achieved a good standard, and now ring with us for the church services regularly. Well done to Lucy and Tim and Caroline.

Practice nights for the bell ringers are on an ad hoc basis now, but new recruits are still coming along, to replace other locals who can no longer continue, because of infirmity and ill health.

The tower is popular with visiting ringers and a team from this area rang a peal of 41 surprise methods last autumn, a magnificent achievement and a target for the locals one day!

£147.80 was earned for the church this year from bell ringing donations and fees. It should be noted that £50 was donated to this fund, following our ringing for our friend Geoff Clarke's funeral, in Framlingham church.

Brandeston ringers would like to thank the PCC for their continuing support and in particular the installation of the rope guides last spring. These have made a noticeable difference for the beginners, thank you.

Deanery Synod Report for 2011

Four meetings were held. The April meeting at Dennington highlighted the fact that only 12% of the parish share for 2011 had been paid. The draft report of the Pastoral Deanery Plan was then given. The six stipendiary clergy will eventually be reduced to five and benefice boundaries are likely to be altered. It was proposed that Brandeston, Kettleburgh, and Easton would join the Mid Loes Benefice giving a total of eleven parishes. Campsea Ashe, Hacheston, and Marlesford would be joined to Wickham Market and Petistree, whilst Parham would be placed with Framlingham and Saxtead.

In 1993 a General Synod resolution was passed concerning the appointment of Women Bishops. It had been decided, that we would be asked to vote on a Code of Practice concerning this. However after some discussion the Lay Chairman ruled that this could not

be done and that it would be necessary to convene another meeting to allow further discussion.

A talk was given on 'Later life and how to live it' by Kathleen Ban Rabha, Community Affairs Adviser, and Jo Collins of 'Age U K Suffolk'. This concentrated on work in Ipswich but it was hoped that a small deanery such as Loes might be interested in carrying the work further.

The extra meeting to consider 'Women in the Episcopate' and the Code of Practice was held at Bruisyard on 31st May. No vote was taken but time limited discussion took place with delegates indicating the views of their parish. Brandeston was in favour of having Women Bishops and delegated transfer.

The Lay Chairman, Patrick Lowin, said that the Deanery Pastoral Plan shown to members at the previous meeting was undergoing a review with emphasis on vocation, mission, and ministry. Concern was expressed about representation on the Pastoral Committee which was largely unknown. Our benefice is represented by Mr William Clarke of Kettleburgh. A suitable candidate is required for the post of Deanery Organiser and members were invited to make suggestions. It was decided to form a small working party to give attention to a further extension of 'Later life and how to live it.'

The third meeting was held at Charsfield in September, and was attended by the Rural Dean and twenty deanery representatives. Neither of our parish representatives was able to attend. The main subject of the meeting was 'The Ipswich Umbrella Trust' and the speaker was Mr Roger Fern, an ex mayor of Ipswich. It was an interesting talk and discussion. The Trust was established to provide a night shelter for homeless people sleeping rough in Ipswich. Information concerning the Trust, including ways of volunteering and donating are available through the speaker.

The final meeting of the year was held at Dennington village hall in October and again the Rural Dean and twenty eight deanery representatives attended, together with other members of the clergy and guests.

Patrick Lowin, Chairman of the Deanery Synod for the past seven years, announced he was stepping down and was presented with a certificate and gift. Mr Alister Gourlay of Cretingham was elected his successor. Mr Christopher Wilkes of Debenham was elected Deanery Organiser. The main topic for discussion was the Deanery Plan which basically is a matrix split into four headings designed to show clearly activities ongoing in the deanery. The purpose being that all members of the deanery are able to participate in activities outside of their benefice.

On other matters the Chairman reported that at the end of the third quarter only just over 50% of parish share had been paid. We were 17th out of 19 Deaneries. The next Synod meeting is due to be held at Debenham High School on Thurs 22nd March 2012. The topic for discussion will be 'Our Diocese Links with Kagera'.

Financial Report for 2011

It has been a difficult year, financially, for the Council.

Receipts have been boosted this year by an increase of £1147.11 in Fund Raising. The fall in Collections and Other Giving/ Legacies is partly due to a legacy of £1000 being received in 2010.

With reference to the Payments, the decision to only pay £2,500 of the parish share of over £10,000 was not an easy one to make but was necessary in order to meet the restoration costs in 2011. Church expenses have been kept to a minimum and savings of £1000 have been made.

The Funds have been brought into line with national guidelines and have been re-organised into three categories: restricted, unrestricted and designated.

There are still on-going restoration costs to be met in the next twelve months so there will be more difficult decisions ahead of us.

All Saints Church Brandeston
Period ended 31st December 2011
Receipts and Payments
General Fund Unrestricted

	£ 2011	£ 2010
Receipts		
Planned Giving (Gift Aid)	4,501.00	3,832.50
Collections other Giving Legacies	3,560.55	5,693.91
Wall Safe	177.58	137.83
Donations	1,837.47	2,491.28
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	1,624.00	2,054.85
Fund Raising	9,135.56	7,988.45
Interest		8.45

Brandeston PCC Annual Report for 2011

	6.72	
Magazine	804.00	811.50
Fees	<u>772.00</u>	<u>678.00</u>
Total	<u>22,418.88</u>	<u>23,696.77</u>

Payments

Grants Overseas	507.15	225.00
" Home	495.77	218.62
Diocesan Quota	2,500.00	10057.00
Church Expenses	2,239.91	3,279.47
Clergy Expenses	220.20	276.83
Cost of Services	82.50	0.00
Magazine	793.50	641.40
Summer & Christmas fete	2,270.43	1,593.84
Other Fundraising	102.81	1,382.30
Bank Charges	<u>40.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
Total	<u>9,252.27</u>	<u>17,714.46</u>
Excess Receipts over Payments	13166.61	<u>5,982.31</u>

Receipts and Payments

Restricted Restoration Fund

	£
	2011
Receipts	
Donations	5,646.00
Grants	11,500.00
Tax on Gift Aid	<u>1,498.25</u>
Total	<u>18,644.25</u>
Payments	
Major Works	<u>34,889.69</u>
Deficit	-16,245.44

Movement on Funds

Unrestricted Funds

Fabric Fund

Opening Balance 1st Jan 2011	22,985.81
Transfer to Designated Fabric Fund	<u>22,985.81</u>
Balance 31st Dec 2011	<u>NIL</u>

General Reserve

Opening Balance 1st Jan 2012	309.07
Surplus on General Fund	
Receipts and Payments	<u>13,166.61</u>
Balance at 31st Dec 2012	<u>13,475.68</u>

Designated Fund

Fabric Fund

Transferred from	
Unrestricted Fund	22,985.81
Transferred to	
Restricted Renovation	
Fund	<u>- 16,245.44</u>
Balance 31st Dec 2011	<u>6,740.37</u>

Restricted Fund

Renovation Fund

Deficit	- 16,245.44
Transfer from Designated	
Fabric Fund	<u>16,245.44</u>
Total	<u>NIL</u>

Total Funds

Unrestricted Fund

General Reserve	13,475.68
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Designated Fund

Fabric Fund	6,740.37
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Represented by

Current Account	7,388.31
Business	
Account	13,185.67

Restricted Funds

Renovation Fund	NIL
Caring Fund	263.62
Cemetary Fund	94.31

Total Funds	<u>20,573.98</u>	Total	<u>20,573.98</u>
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Thank you

This year the PCC gives a huge “Thank you” to all the people in the village, and from the wider community and grant-making bodies who have supported our appeal for funds so generously. A church is not just about raising money, but the ancient grade 1 listed building needs constant and expensive attention to keep it in good repair. The generosity of all those who value the place of the church in the community, has allowed us to carry out most of the necessary repairs before the condition of the building deteriorated. Thank you very much. We are also indebted to Framlingham College for helping both financially and physically with some of the work.

The day to day work of the church has continued alongside the building works. This includes not just services, but also its pastoral work, charitable giving and its fundraising. The charitable giving from the church has been higher than usual this year thanks to the generosity of members of the congregation at special services to recognise the importance of our chosen charities. We have our needs, but the church continues to recognise the greater needs of others.

As usual there are many people in addition to all the hardworking members of the PCC who offer their services to the church and who must be thanked: the flower arrangers and cleaners; the bellringers, organists and musicians who contribute so much to our services; Mrs Butcher and the team who distribute the parish magazine; those who prepare the church and welcome us to services; Mr Ritchie who audits our accounts; 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.

We were sorry to say “Goodbye.” to Alan and Jane Randall from the Queen’s Head at the end of the year. They have been so supportive of the church as well as in many the other areas of village life and we will miss their support. Brandeston Hall continue to provides groundsmen to keep the churchyard looking immaculate and children and staff to add fun and energy to our family services. We are especially grateful to all the ‘good neighbours’ from community, who support our work, who join with us on fundraising events and who care for others, within the village and beyond.

Finally, we thank 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.