

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRANDESTON**

**Annual Reports**

**and**

**Financial Statement**

**of the**

**Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

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**Priest-in-charge:**

The Reverend Harry Edwards (up to January 2014)

The Revd Dr Stephen Brian (Rural Dean, from January 2014)  
The Rectory, Church Lane, Earl Soham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7SD,  
01728 685308                      SFB4510@aol.com

**Assistant priest:**

The Reverend Robin Alderson (up to October 2013):

**Banks:**

Barclays Bank plc, Suffolk Coastal Group, 4 Church Street  
Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1DJ

**Independent Examiner:**

Mr Patrick Ritchie  
12 Andrew Burtts Close  
Framlingham  
Suffolk  
IP13 9TD

**All Saints' Church – Annual Report**

**We are here...**

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

**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 people served as members of the PCC. Their term of office, excluding the priest-in-charge, ends at the APCM in 2014, 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 (to October 2013)
Churchwardens:	Mrs Alison Molyneux Mrs Mary Baker (Elder)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr Don Evans Miss Eileen Leach MBE (Elder)
Elected Members:	Mr Paul Baker (Treasurer) Lady Clemency Cunliffe Mr John Garratt (Trees Officer) Mrs Ruth Garratt (from 2013) Mrs Kelly Jeffery (Safeguarding) Mr Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair/Tower Captain) Mrs Mary Mitson-Woods (from 2012 APCM) Mrs Lucy Nobbs (from 2013) Mr John Penny (from 2013) Mrs Lydia Freeman (co-opted from 2012 APCM) Mrs Janet Weston (co-opted from 2012 APCM)

### **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. The Standing Committee 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 this year.

### **Church Attendance**

There were 2 baptisms, 2 weddings and 3 funeral services in the Church during the year.

Average attendance at services in October, over 2 services, was 10 adults and 1 child, but including a benefice service on the first Sunday of the month, the average was 48.

Easter services: Maundy Thursday 8 adults; Good Friday 25 adults and 5 children; Easter Sunday at 8.30 there were 20 present including 19 communicants.

On Christmas Eve there were 78 present including 3 under 16, all communicants.

The number on the electoral roll in December was 79.

### **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 58%. There were three additional meetings: 2 joint meetings with the Village Hall committee in April and May to discuss the fete and a meeting in October to plan the Christmas Fair.

This year has been a year of change for the PCC. The retirement of the Revd Robin Alderson as our Assistant Priest and the imminent retirement of Revd Harry Edwards, our priest in charge, have given everyone reason to consider the future of the church in Brandeston and the benefice as a whole. The retirement of Revd Alderson was marked by a benefice service in All Saints' Church and a presentation afterwards in the Rowley Hall at Brandeston Hall. It was an enjoyable and memorable occasion for everyone. We are fortunate that we have Revd Deirdre West and a team of retired priests, including Robin Alderson, to help us through the interregnum.

The changes to membership of the PCC continued from last year. At the APCM Mrs Lucy Nobbs, Mrs Ruth Garratt and Mr John Penny were welcomed to the PCC; Mrs Freeman and Mrs Weston remained as co-opted members. After 25 years, Miss Leach stepped down as a churchwarden. Her valued contribution to the PCC has not been lost as she has taken over the role of Deanery Synod representative following the resignation and subsequent death of Mrs Wilda Woodland, who will be sadly missed in the church and the village, particularly for her tireless work on local history and her support for Nansambo School in Malawi. Miss Leach's place as churchwarden was taken by Mrs Mary Baker.

We also said thank you to Mrs Nancy Demetriadi and Mrs Mary Moore who both chose not to stand for the PCC this year. Both have given many years of service to the church, particularly with their contributions to the fabric of the church; Mrs Demetriadi with her flower arranging and embroidery and Mrs Moore with her artistic talents and metal work along with her late husband Hector. Fortunately both these creative ladies are happy to continue with their practical work for the church.

The other major change was the new electoral roll, compiled by Mr Risk with the assistance of Lady Cunliffe. The increased numbers on the roll reflect their hard work in compiling the roll and the desire of the PCC for the management of the church to be more visible to the community as a whole.

Following the completion of the restoration work last year, the main focus for the PCC this year has been on looking to the future. The centenary of the diocese in 2014 has been signalled by the Diocesan Growth Strategy and Brandeston PCC has been considering new ways of building the church at a time when the number of services is being reduced. It was with sadness that we held a final family service in July, but it was reassuring to see the response to our invitation to "Explore and Celebrate" in the church, an opportunity for the church to say thank you to the local community for its support with the completed restoration work.

For families, celebrations of the church year such as Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Harvest and Christingle were, once again, among the highlights of the year in 2013, with the adult congregation giving very good support to all of these as well as the Easter and Christmas services.

Monthly benefice services, rotating round the seven churches of the benefice, are enjoyed by those who attend them and are beginning to attract larger numbers as the word spreads. They are a valuable way for the people of the seven churches of the benefice to worship and meet together; there are more similarities than differences and we enjoy the support and encouragement of our friends throughout the benefice.

#### **All Saints Church - Fabric, goods and ornaments.**

During the year we have had to do no repairs to the church since the major works were completed with quinquennial repairs and only a few broken roof tiles need to be replaced when a contractor can be engaged.

Routine maintenance of the gutters and drains continues within the diocesan contractor's scheme and rain issues in the nave south side appear to have been rectified by the provision of an extra downpipe. The boiler has run without problems and has been serviced. Heat levels have been reasonable in the church this winter as it has been a relatively mild winter and we now run it for six hours prior to services.

The chancel was reordered in the previous year and the popular view is that it has been successful in many ways, providing an open area showing off many fine historic features. Eventually we aim to provide additional heating in this area as it is sparsely served by radiators. Dampness in the chancel near the external walls, appears to be much improved over previous years and this may well have resulted from the external repair works.

We are most grateful to the staff at Brandeston Hall for all the work they do in maintaining the churchyard to such a high standard. The PCC have discussed the encroachment of the yew hedge on the main approach to the north porch and after taking advice a small working party will trim each side over three years back to the central trunk in late spring. This will help regenerate a very old hedge.

All of our goods and ornaments remain safe and in good order and are regularly used for a variety of services.

#### **Children's Work**

The children's work in the church has continued with an emphasis on marking the important services of Harvest, Good Friday with its Easter Garden, the Crib Service and Christingle. The small numbers attending routine, monthly family services has led to a new approach. At the final family service in July, members of the village community were invited to "Explore and Celebrate" in the church and the churchyard. The worship centred on the stages of Christian life in relation to the church building and gave villagers an

opportunity to explore parts of the church that they had not previously visited and for the church to say thank you for their support.

Resulting from the end of the family services, members of the church have been planning for the first of a series of special events for young people, to take place in February 2014, designed to reach out to this age group and to keep them in contact with the church family. For younger children, the holiday club was held again in the summer with many children returning again along with some new faces. This was very encouraging and we are looking forward to next year. There are no safeguarding issues to report.

### **Fund-raising**

There were five events which took place during 2013 to raise funds for the church.

The first was the village fete that, despite a huge downpour, managed to raise £1483.51 for the church with an equal amount going to the village hall.

This was followed by Miss Leach's summer tea party in the Mitson-Woods' garden which was, once again, a very enjoyable occasion for those who organised and those who provided the entertainment, as well as the guests. It raised £1040 of which £115 was sent to Nansambo.

The bike ride continues to show Brandeston at its best with our reputation as "big hitters" going before us. Ruth and John Garratt do an amazing job every year at encouraging locals to take part in this event. The total raised for Brandeston was £500 with the same amount going to the Suffolk Historic Churches' Trust.

A quiz held in the village hall in September, raised £260.

The Christmas Fair seemed to be quiet, but those who visited were as generous as those who provided all the goods for sale and the total broke all records for the event. A lot of work from a wide range of people goes into all these events and the PCC are grateful for all the support that it receives. The final total was £1674.

### **Charitable Giving**

Charitable giving is made up of donations of money decided by the PCC and by collections at various services throughout the year. This year the PCC has made a conscious effort to make the local community aware of its support for its chosen charities and its response to emergencies. We have been fortunate that we have not been burdened by restoration work and have been able to be more generous than usual, while still saving for restoration work. Plans are in hand for a fundraising event, inspired by Mrs Woodland's links with Nansambo, to raise money for the school there and keep our support alive in her memory.

Suffolk Historic Churches Preservation Trust	£25
Nansambo	£162
Children's Society (Christingle)	£117
St Elizabeth's Hospice (pub Carol singing)	£94
Ormiston Trust and Lehmann House. (Harvest Festival)	Gifts of food
Ormiston Trust. (Crib service)	Christmas Presents
RBL Poppy Appeal	£330
Syria Appeal	£200
Philippines typhoon appeal	£1000

### **Deanery Synod Report for 2013**

Three meetings have been held since the last Annual Report.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the Synod was held at St Michael's Rooms, Framlingham. Thirty-eight representatives, clergy and guests were present. The speaker was Mrs Jane Sheat, the Diocesan Director of Education. Her opening statement was: "Church schools stand at the centre of the Church's mission." There are ninety church schools in the diocese, her department is involved in the religious education and worship in schools; also the selection of staff for senior appointments and school governors. Mrs Sheat was thanked for a very engaging and informative presentation in which she pointed out that 0.66% of the parish share was spent on the education team.

The next meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Bruisyard Village Hall. Forty-one representatives, clergy and guests attended. The topic for discussion was the deanery plan which was presented by the Rural Dean, the Revd Graham Owen. The pastoral sub-committee, had drawn up a plan which did not meet with the approval of the representatives present. A heated debate ensued. Various options were put forward but the meeting ended with no firm decisions being agreed. As far as Brandeston was concerned, it was planned that we would remain as part of the Greater Benefice with the Campsea Ashe benefice.

The last meeting of the year was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at All Saints' Church Wickham Market. Twenty-nine representatives, clergy and guests were present. The topic for discussion was All Saints' Church and the changes that have been made in recent years. The speaker was Revd John Aldridge. He told the meeting about the changes since his arrival in 2003 including the installation of a toilet and crèche, a new heating system and, in 2009, the removal of the pews. A kitchen had been built under the tower and a new entrance at the west end with a glass door. All church members had been strongly supportive of all the changes which had led to increased use of the building. The meeting ended with a tour of the church. Tributes were paid to Revd Harry Edwards and Revd Robin Alderson who had both recently announced their retirement plans.

The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Earl Soham Village Hall at which the speaker will be Revd Dave Gardner, the Diocesan Director of Mission.

The above is a brief summary. Minutes of the meetings are available should anyone be interested.

### **Brandeston Bellringers**

We continue to ring for all services at either Brandeston or Kettleburgh, also supporting our friends in Easton for the major festivals. Our ringing standard continues to improve although we are unable to maintain a regular practice night and hence our ringers go elsewhere in the locality. Thanks must go to all our ringers who turn up in all weathers; they are Persephone, Hilary, John, Helen, Jane, Ruth D. Caroline, Chris, Tim and Lucy. Although Lucy has gone up to Cambridge, she now continues to learn with the University band and rings with us in the holidays.

New Year ringing remains a favourite with a full tower supported by Robin and D with the refreshments. Throughout the year we have many visiting bands ringing peals and quarter peals, often of great complexity. Our bells are considered to be a fine ring, and apart from occasional inspections, we have had to do no work on them. We are very grateful to the PCC for the provision of new lighting in the ringing chamber that makes a considerable difference for us.

Our hand bells also remain in good order and are occasionally used by us for recreational occasions.

### **Tree Report: Churchyard**

Following the gales in October, a very large branch split and blew off the large chestnut tree in the SW corner of the churchyard, falling across the path and damaging both sides of the yew hedge. The wood was cut up and cleared away and stored by church members while the brushwood went to the village bonfire. A tree surgeon agreed to remove the base of the branch and also remove a broken branch suspended near the top of the tree. The yew hedge will need major work and advice has been given by Crown Nurseries. The work will be started in the spring. Other damage caused by the gales was to trees on the east boundary where branches were blown off. These will be cleared in the spring. The red chestnut tree by the war memorial with rot at its base survived the gales and its condition is still being monitored. All the other trees are in good condition following work carried out in 2012.

### **Tree Report: Chapel Cemetery**

A tree officer inspected the large ash tree in the SW corner twice and declared it healthy so the necessary removal of branches has been done. Other trees and the north and east hedges have been trimmed. The grass in the lower half of the cemetery is cut twice a year and 58 orchids were counted in May and June this year. Dead elms in the south hedge have been removed and this work continues along with the lowering of the height of the hedge for ease of management in the future. The footpath has been cut at regular intervals. Our thanks go to David Risk and Chris McArthur for the work that they have done this year.

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

The Candlelit supper in December was once a gain a great success, raising just over £500. There is now £2000 in the account. It has been decided that the money will be used to put in a gravel pathway from the gate at the roadside to the chapel door. Troughing has been repaired and the building has been decorated.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There was an excess of receipts over payments of £1253.51. This was achieved despite a fall in Giving of £710.56 and fundraising of £1633.31 (£500 of this was as a result of the washout at the Summer Fete). The Council's charitable giving showed an increase of £1503.30. This was mainly due to £1200 being donated to crises in Syria and the Philippines. The final payment of £1592.93 to the builders and the architect has been made and, therefore, the closing balance on the restoration fund is now zero. The parish share was not only achieved but a further £600 was donated to help meet the shortfall for the benefice. The Funds have shown an increase of £898.05 on 2012 which is just over £2000 below the target we set ourselves.

**All Saints' Church, Brandeston - Period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

**Receipts and Payments**

**General Fund – Unrestricted**

	£		£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b>2013</b>		<b>2012</b>
Planned Giving ( Gift Aid)	3425.00		3730.00
Collections, Other Giving, Legacies	4607.06		5012.62
Wall Safe	78.11		74.92
Donations	1908.47		2503.00
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	1925.21		2349.19
Fund Raising	5238.21		9091.65
Interest	0.00		5.65
Magazine	828.00		808.55
Fees	2407.00		1165.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20417.06</b>		<b>24740.58</b>

**Payments**

Grants – Overseas	1362.00		300.00
Grants – Home	566.65		125.35
Diocesan Parish Share	12600.00		11085.00
Church Expenses	3026.43		3850.59
Clergy Expenses	270.34		276.64
Cost of Services	0.00		45.00
Magazine	862.80		813.00
Summer & Christmas Fete	58.33		2258.56
Other Fundraising	0.00		36.00
Bank Charges	0.00		40.00
Fees	417.00		0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19163.55</b>		<b>18830.14</b>

<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1253.51</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>5910.44</b>
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**Restoration Fund – Restricted**

**Receipts**

Chancel Fund	60.00		1334.43
Donations	0.00		0.00
Grants	0.00		6500.00
VAT reclaimed	1181.47		5810.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1241.47</b>		<b>13644.44</b>

**Payments**

Major Works	1592.93		31420.76
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<b>Deficit</b>	<b>351.46</b>	<b>Deficit</b>	<b>17776.32</b>
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Brandeston PCC Annual Report for 2013

**Movement on Funds**

<b><u>General Reserve-Unrestricted</u></b>	<b>2013</b>		<b>2012</b>
Opening Balance – 01/01/2013	1609.80	Opening Balance- 01/01/2012	13475.68
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	1253.51	Surplus of Receipts over Payments	5910.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2863.31</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19386.12</b>
		Transfer to Restoration Fund	17776.32
<b>Closing Balance – 31/12/2013</b>	<b>2863.31</b>	<b>Closing Balance – 31/12/2012</b>	<b>1609.80</b>

**Fabric Fund – Designated**

Opening Balance-01/01/2013	6740.37	Opening Balance – 01/01/2012	6740.37
Transfer to Restoration Fund	351.46		
<b>Closing Balance – 31/12 /2013</b>	<b>6388.91</b>	<b>Closing Balance – 31/12 /2012</b>	<b>6740.37</b>

**Restoration Fund – Restricted**

Opening Balance – 01/01/13	0.00	Opening Balance -01/01/2012	0.00
Receipts	1241.47	Receipts	13644.44
Payments	1592.93	Payments	31420.76
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>351.46</b>	<b>Deficit</b>	<b>17776.32</b>
Transfer from Fabric Fund	351.46	Transfer from General Reserve	17776.32
<b>Closing Balance – 31/12 /2013</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>Closing Balance – 31/12 /2012</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Caring Fund – Restricted**

Opening Balance 01/01/13	263.62	Opening Balance – 01/01/12	263.62
<b>Closing Balance -31/12/2013</b>	<b>263.62</b>	<b>Closing Balance -31/12/2012</b>	<b>263.62</b>

**Cemetery Fund – Restricted**

Opening Balance – 01/01/13	94.31	Opening Balance - 01/01/12	94.31
Receipts – War Graves	20.00		
Payments – Groundsmen’s Expenses	24.00		
<b>Closing Balance – 31/12 /2013</b>	<b>90.31</b>	<b>Closing Balance - 31/12/12</b>	<b>94.31</b>

**Statement of Capital at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
General Reserve- Unrestricted	2863.31	1609.80
Fabric Fund –Designated	6388.91	6740.37
Restoration Fund- Restricted	0.00	0.00
Caring Fund – Restricted	263.62	263.62
Cemetery Fund – Restricted	90.31	94.31
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>9606.15</b>	<b>8708.10</b>

**Represented by:**

Barclays – Current account	0.00	27.11
HSBC – Current account	9606.15	8680.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>9606.15</b>	<b>8708.10</b>

## Thank You

Brandeston Church is an important building in the village, a building to be cared for and cherished, but the Church is also the people, those who worship there, those who contribute to the services in the church, those who use their practical skills to maintain and beautify the church and those who work hard with the unseen, but important aspects of the everyday running and maintenance of the church's building, worship and mission.

The people of the church are here...

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

and we thank them for all that they do to fulfil this mission

Our thanks this year must particularly go to Revd Robin Alderson and his wife "D" who have given so much to the church and the village as a whole over the last 6 years. They won the friendship and respect of those who they knew, churchgoers or not, and this was demonstrated at Robin's leaving service and presentation in October. We wish them well for the future and are thankful that they will maintain their connection with the church in Brandeston.

There are many more people to thank because they all contribute to the life of the church. They care for the church and the chapel and their churchyards; they do the cleaning; they venture up the tower to raise flags; they enrich our worship with bells and music, prayers and flowers; they keep people informed with magazines and publicity, audit accounts and work on the electoral roll, and they prepare the church and welcome us to services.

The headmaster, staff and children of Brandeston Hall School provide welcome help with the care of the churchyard and photocopying facilities as well as with their contributions to fundraising activities while the staff of the Queen's Head give their support with the fete. Our fundraising this year has been focused on those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. We have been fortunate that we have been able to direct a larger proportion of our income to charitable giving than usual and we thank everyone for their support with this. Without the assistance and generosity of the people of village, we would not have been able to support these causes.

Finally, we remember our clergy- not just Revd Robin Alderson, but also Revd Harry Edwards, and Revd Deirdre West as she prepares to take on more responsibility in our parish after the retirement of Harry Edwards in January. We thank them all.