

St Martin's Church, Welton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30th April 2017

R E P O R T S

Electoral Roll Report

There are 43 people on the Electoral Roll at present date.

8 people have left the register (moved away or deceased) and 1 person has joined.

The Electoral Roll will be displayed in church and please notify the PCC if you notice any omissions or anomalies.

The average Sunday attendance is 22.5 people.

(This figure has decreased from 2015, which had 53 weeks, and the ASA was 26.15.)

This concludes the Electoral Roll report.
Frances Deeley.

Review of PCC Proceedings for 2016

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Chrys Tremththanmor Chairperson from 18th April, 2010 to 05 June 2016.

The Revd Canon Sarah Brown Chairperson from 03 January 2017.

Wardens: Mr Robert Somerville

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Gill and Keith Beardmore

Elected members:

Mr Nigel Woodcock	Treasurer
Mrs Val Hamblin	
Mr Keith Beardmore	
Mr Chris Heatherington	
Mrs Jan Wall	Assistant Treasurer
Mrs Jackie Hibbert	from April 2016
Mrs Roslyn Loades	from April 2016

Co-opted on to the PCC

Reader - Mrs Gilly Beardmore

PCC meetings have been held regularly at approximately six weekly intervals throughout the year.

Churchwardens: Mr. R I Somerville has continued his responsibilities over the year, supported by other members of the church. The PCC are sure you will join them in expressing thanks for their constant support and service to the church community of St Martin's, much of it goes unrecorded. A second Churchwarden is still required.

PCC: The PCC continued to seek a suitable candidate as PCC Secretary; in the meantime PCC members have shared responsibilities for taking minutes of PCC meetings, and other secretarial duties.

PCC Elections: The PCC welcomed Mrs Jackie Hibbert and Mrs Roslyn Loades to the committee.

The Archdeacon inspection took place on 10th August 2016 with Archdeacon Richard.

On 5th June 2016, St Martin's Church went into Interregnum.

The Parish Profile 2016 was produced; a copy is available in church.

During the 6 months interregnum, Canon Michael Webber and the Daventry Team supported St Martin's, and Canon Michael also chaired the PCC Meetings.

The 11am services continued throughout the interregnum, and the PCC wish to thank the retired Clergy who lead our worship each Sunday morning.

Pew Leaflets continued to be produced weekly, and emailed out to a block list of 27 people. In addition, the housebound without internet/computers now have home deliveries, and also anyone who has not been able to attend the services.

The Website is currently being updated, and the pew leaflets, Baby Project newsletters, and other information are added on a weekly basis.

<http://www.stmartinswelton.org.uk>

GROWTH ACTION PLAN (GAP) As a result of the GAP set for 2015/2016 we have been able to consult with the wider community regarding plans for the use of the church building. The Baby Bath project has extended its work in supporting newborns. Our relationship with Welton Academy continues to develop to include mutual support at services, assemblies and a prayer event in April 2016. Notice boards have been set up in the area near the font and are clearly arranged to celebrate the Christian work of St. Martin's. We now have a church Facebook page which has gradually attracted interest during the past year.

SERVICES:

Worship: Remembrance Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Christmas Carol Service, and Crib Service were well attended. A Bible study group continues to meet most months led by Gill Beardmore.

Baby Project has given out over 50 baths to families since it was founded in December 2013. Private donations have been received from various local groups and individuals in the area enabling us to extend our support of newborn babies locally, nationally and worldwide. This year a teaching resource was purchased for local midwives and a donation sent to Wateraid for pregnant mothers worldwide. A wide variety of knitting and craft groups have provided shawls and baby clothes for full term and premature babies.

Fundraising: The PCC are grateful for the time and effort made by those who have held and supported various fundraising events throughout the year. To help maintain St Martin's in the life of the village of Welton, the PCC welcomes ideas and offers of help to raise funds for the Church.

A Coffee Morning was enjoyed by many in June and this raised funds for the church.

Leaflets advising Easter and other services times were delivered to the new houses on Monksmoor in early April.

The church remains open during the day.

Churchwarden`s Report

FABRIC OF THE BUILDING

Replacement of damaged cast iron rainwater gutters and down pipes and re-pointing of the brick drainage gullies at the base of the church walls was certified complete in September at a cost of £31,314 + VAT plus architects` fees of £2,310, against which a government grant of £32,900 was obtained, plus all VAT reclaimed from LPOW, Thus the project cost St Martins £724 for which we owe our thanks and appreciation to the LPOW.

The project was suspended by the architect for the winter months of 2015/2016 to avoid frost damage to lime mortar in sub zero temperatures.

On completion of the above the architect has been requested to specify what needs doing in relation to the beetle and woodworm damage to St Martins` timber work as reported in the 2014 quinquennial inspection report.

This was manifested by collapsed floor boarding in the front pews and elsewhere, which has been temporarily repaired pending architects specification, which is to focus on safety of the congregation.

ALTAR

Harold Thompson continues as sacristan and has dutifully kept the altar dressed and supplied during 2016 for which we record our thanks. Harold also doubles as Bell Captain and finds bell ringers for various occasions.

ORGAN

Tuning was carried out in June and December 2016.

Cliff Mortimore has once again provided sterling service as organist throughout the year.

BELLS & CLOCK

The bells were inspected and serviced on 16th January 2016 by Graham Jenkins and all bearings and stops were checked for tightness and left secure.

The clock and striker mechanism oil levels was checked and topped up by Chris Heatherington. The small oil leak from the striker mechanism does not appear to be deteriorating and continues to be monitored.

CHURCHYARD

The mowing team and others have continued to maintain the Churchyard to a respectable standard for which we record here our appreciation to Greg King, John Millward and Pete O`Mahoney.

Our thanks go to Brian and Jackie Hibbert for unlocking and locking the church during daylight hours and for putting the bins out each week.

CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

We are again pleased to record our appreciation to those parishioners, particularly David Goode and Cliff Mortimore, who have continued to maintain the Cemetery in such a well kept state.

PRESENTATION

Once again, the interior of St Martins was shown off to its best throughout the year and for this we record our gratitude to Joyce Mossop and the valiant team of Church cleaners.

Our thanks also go to Val Hamblin and others for keeping our Church so "bright and beautiful" as always with fresh flowers, on both regular and special occasions, especially Christmas and Easter.

HEALTH & SAFETY & SECURITY

There were no reported accidents in 2016.

The fire extinguishers were inspected and certificated as fully charged on 15th April 2016.

SMARTWATER warning notices remained posted on the church doors and churchyard gates throughout 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to record our grateful thanks to the many members of the Church, the PCC, Canon Michael, the Daventry Team Clergy and retired clergy for their support during our interregnum since Revd Chrys Tremththanmor left us on 5th June 2016.

We also thank the community in general and all the other organisations in Welton, who have supported the work of our Church in 2016 with their generous gifts of time, effort and money, particularly in our St Martins Appeal during November, which raised over £3,200.

We now look forward to maintaining and growing our Church Community under the leadership of our new vicar, the Revd. Canon Sarah Brown, when she is installed on 3rd January 2017.

May God continue to guide us in "**Promoting The Christian Way Of Life In Welton**".

Bob Somerville, Churchwarden.

Reader Report March 2016 – 2017

NB St. Martin's in interregnum from July 2016 – January 2017

I would like to thank all the PCC for their coordinated work throughout the interregnum. I look forward, under Revd Sarah's leadership, to building our church together and serving the needs of our inevitably growing communities.

Worship

Monthly morning prayer service from July 2016 and sometimes in partnership with members of the Daventry Team of Lay ministers.

Partnership with Revd Canon Ken Baker in his services (monthly)

Occasional BCP service at Braunston in partnership with the Braunston reader and choir.

Family Services Mothering Sunday and Father's Day.

Christmas Services including support at District Guides and Welton Academy services. Thanks to Cliff our organist and Keith for their wonderful support at the Carol Service and Sarah's service in January and throughout the interregnum.

Bible Study

12 people have been involved using a mixture of methods of bible study i.e. the on-going Facebook closed group, a non-Facebook group via email and at face to face monthly meetings. We have used texts from Ephesians, the theme of developing personal spiritual awareness based on a book by Paula Gooder and revision of bible study skills using the read reflect pray method of bible study with various weekly biblical texts during 2017.

School Work has included -

Weekly assemblies during the interregnum and subsequently shared fortnightly with Revd Sarah at Welton Academy (. Details are posted on the Welton Academy notice board in church.) My role has been pastoral and supportive according to school needs identified by the head and staff. I keep Jackie Hibbert (WA school governor) Rev. Sarah, the RE coordinator and head fully informed of my work.

Ashby Fields school visits supporting the RE coordinator with development of RE Daventry Team Candlemas service for year 5's.

Ecumenical work including Christmas and Easter interactive visits to 4 participating schools to prepare them for the events at The Methodist Church in December and March. The participating schools contribute annually at Christmas to our Baby Project.

Reader liaison with the incumbent

Feedback short informal emails re identified needs as and when needed.

Monthly (approx.) meetings to coordinate diaries and priorities.

Baby project

Our teamwork and development of the baby project community is witnessed in our monthly newsletters. Thanks to close teamwork with Jan Wall our Baby Project Treasurer; this project continues to thrive involving secular and church groups in practical mission opportunities. They voluntarily share their various skills. We now have 2 young Mums who have recently joined us. We have celebrated the work of Jane Franklyn who was one of our founders by presenting her recently with a book of memories. Jane is moving forward on her Christian journey which is exciting but we shall miss our shared giggles.

Courses attended

Just Mission- 1 day diocesan course on churches and their role in advocating social justice

Ministry to Families 6 session diocesan course

Pastoral visiting 1 day Daventry team Course attended with Ros Loades

Deanery Synod representative with my husband Keith

Safeguarding

Ros Loades now has DBS certification re pastoral visiting.

Gilly Beardmore (reader) 2017.

Foundation Governor Report

Welton CE Academy continues to be a popular and over-subscribed school and pupils achieve high standards by the time they leave in Year Six. As a member of the David Ross Education Trust (DRET), children are able to take part in a number of enrichment activities outside of school, including competitions where the school have experienced a good deal of success. In November, children from the school won the local DRET Primary Netball Tournament. In February, Welton CE Academy won the DRET Cross Country event. Also in February, a team attended a day's coaching in debating which culminated in a competitive session. Welton CE Academy won the debate, due to the children's eloquence and ability to clearly present an argument. Children from Welton CE Academy have also contributed to non-competitive music and drama events with other schools.

There have been changes in the leadership during this year. In the Summer of 2016, the Headteacher, Mrs Corrine Biddell, left the school. At this point, the David Ross Education Trust decided to create an Executive Headship Post across two schools, Welton and Newnham. It became clear by October half-term that this arrangement was not meeting the needs of both schools and at this point, a temporary post of Acting Headteacher was created. Mr Allan Crozier was seconded from his substantive post at another DRET school while DRET carry out the recruitment process to appoint a substantive Headteacher at Welton C.E. During this time, the school has not stood still and continues to develop to ensure the optimum progress of pupils.

The school enjoys a close relationship with the Church. Some special occasions have been celebrated in Church, such as the school Christmas Service and the school Easter Service. Children from the school have also contributed to services in Welton Church, such as the Christmas Carol Service. Rev. Canon Sarah Brown takes an assembly in school every fortnight, with our Reader, Gilly Beardmore taking an assembly on alternate weeks. The children in school have also continued to contribute to displays in Church.

The Governors of the school are responsible for being “critical friends”; providing both support and challenge. They, in turn, are supported to do this by a comprehensive menu of training courses. There are occasionally vacancies on the Governing Body and if you feel that you could contribute to the local school in this way, please have a word with me or contact the school.

Jackie Hibbert

Team Council Report 2016

There were no Team Council meetings held in 2016 while the Team Rector, Canon Michael Webber reviewed how the team might best go forward. Meetings have resumed in 2017. The PCC will need to elect team council members for 2017. In 2016 the team failed to meet its parish share obligations in full with Daventry, Welton and Kilsby all falling short which means that currently the team is receiving more ministry than it is able to pay for.

The Parish clergy line-up for 2016 was as follows:

Daventry – Canon Michael Webber (1), Curate Rev Dawn Stokes, (*training so not included in the costs/staffing figures*) Families worker Jo Nichols (0.5) and with substantial input from Team Vicars Rev Nigel Fry (0.2) and Rev Sarah Brown (0.3) *Approximate staff allocation for 23k population (excluding full-time curate) = 2*

Braunston and Ashby – Canon Sarah Brown (also Daventry Rural Dean (0.2) and with 0.3 time allocated to Daventry)

Approximate Ministry allocation for 2k population 0.5

Welton – Rev Chrys Tremththanmor until June 2016 followed by 6 months interregnum. (Chrys also had 1/3 time allocated to Daventry and some time to Diocesan training) *Approximate Ministry allocation for 600 population 0.6*

Barby and Kilsby – Rev Nigel Fry (also 0.2 time allocated to Daventry)

Approximate Ministry allocation for 3k population 0.8

Staverton, Hellidon and Catesby (Rev Roy Kilford, House for Duty therefore 1/3 only) *Approximate Ministry Allocation for 800 population 0.3*

With the departure of Rev Chrys clergy staffing across the team is substantially reduced from 2017. It is unlikely that this situation will improve unless substantial improvements to parish share contributions are made.

There were several Team Services during the year with poor attendance apart from Daventry, Braunston, Ashby and Welton parishes.

Other team initiatives include the Eucharistic Assistants team, The Healing Services, Youth Church and No Labels Worship (both led by Braunston).

Revd Canon Sarah Brown.

Deanery Synod Report 2016

Deanery Synod is the local level of Church of England decision-making somewhat akin to a village meeting or Parish Council. It is the grassroots body that feeds into the diocesan decision-making process which in turn feeds into General Synod which determines policy and practice for the national church. Like General and Diocesan Synods Deanery Synod is made up of both ordained and lay representatives from each church.

Daventry Deanery consists of 25 churches including Welton, most of whom send multiple representatives to the 4 x yearly Deanery Synod Meetings. Technically representatives of each church are elected at the APCM and are entitled to vote on major issues. In reality over the last 3 years there have been very few issues of voting importance and so the Rural Dean of Daventry (Sarah Brown) and the Lay Chair (Helen Thompson) and the deanery standing committee have made the decision that the meetings should be open to anyone who is interested in mission and growth for their church. Around 40 Christians from most of the churches in the deanery have attended most meetings including Gilly and Keith Beardmore.

The Deanery Mission plan is simply to enable the growth and mission of local churches and to reduce the burdens which drain energy away from that crucial activity.

In 2016 There were 4 meetings all looking at practical and spiritual issues either inhibiting or encouraging growth and this theme continues into 2017 with the first meeting looking at the state of the national church and the issues around money and ministry and how that impacts on local churches. Additionally there was a big Advent Praise service at Advent (held at Braunston) and an Away Day in October around growth and mission. A Deanery Discipleship Group has been meeting fortnightly using the excellent "Pilgrim" series.

The days of the definition of a deanery synod being "a group of Anglicans waiting to go home" are over in this deanery. Meetings are stimulating and focussed on church development and growth. Although we do still need representatives formerly elected at the APCM for the eventuality of a major national vote (e.g on changes to liturgy, policy and practice) the Rural Dean is not interested in simply having deanery synod reps for the purposes of making up the numbers. Deanery Synod is for any member of the church who wants to see St Martin's grow and is prepared to learn how we might make that happen. The Rural dean wants to see the cream of those who care about mission at these meetings and not just those who drew the short straw because there were no more jobs that needed doing!

And so we look forward to 2017 and the help that the deanery can give to small parishes.

Rev Canon Sarah Brown.

Safeguarding Report

The Annual review of our safeguarding policy will take place at APCM meeting in accordance with the Peterborough Diocesan requirement. The document will then be signed and posted on the church notice board by the main door.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting in order to maintain awareness of its importance.

Safeguarding (DBS) checks are current and do not need renewal. They are held by Jan Wall (Baby Project treasurer) Bob Somerville (church warden) and Ros Loades (home visitor) and myself (reader). The Daventry Team Safeguarding Officer is Mary Adams based at Holy Cross Church. Her email address is mary@theoldfolk.co.uk

At the time of writing this report I am about to have a review meeting with a member of the PCC who may be willing to undertake this role.
Gilly Beardmore .

Vicar's Report 2016

This is perforce a brief report given that I did not take up my post until January 2017 and therefore cannot report much on parish and church affairs before that time.

Suffice to say that the PCC and core congregation did an extremely good job of pulling together during the interregnum. Supported by Canon Michael and the Daventry Team, not only did you make a superb fist of keeping the church going on a week by week basis but recent initiatives to improve the pastoral care and communications at St Martin's have been bearing fruit. It is wonderful that the elderly, sick and housebound are cared for and not allowed to fall off the radar of the church.

So where do we find ourselves now?

The church has numerically declined over the last 6 years and the congregation is predominantly elderly with only one child who attends anything like regularly. I believe that we are balanced on the line between terminal decline (one member of the congregation at a time) and the opportunity to grow the church and safeguard the future of Christian mission in Welton by developing new congregations. The proximity of new developments like Monksmoor and Lang Farm offer exceptional mission potential if the current church is willing to accomodate new influences. The relationship with Welton School also offers potential to introduce new families and a new pastoral presence in Welton itself will also give the church a shot in the arm as far as engagement with the village spiritually as well as socially is concerned.

The challenge is to take these opportunities while properly taking care of the people and traditions that we already have. Time will tell what compromises and changes will have to be made and what we should hold fast to. What we do will be determined by the courage and will of the PCC and congregation. If the choice is "As long as it sees me out without changing" then a loving management of decline will be the

appropriate model of ministry. If there exists (as I deeply hope) a passion for the long term future of Christ's church and mission in and around Welton then the model of ministry will be energetic, riskier, outgoing and missionary but there will be costs associated.

Until now St Martin's has not met its parish share (currently less than the cost of 1/3 of a priest) but I am delighted that from 2017 the PCC has committed to meet what is requested of it. A full time priest apparently costs £67k – though I actually earn about £24k - and we are currently asked for £19k. As we grow in numbers and put in place an annual Planned Giving and Stewardship programme it should be easier and easier to meet this target and be less reliant on fundraising and gifts from those who do not use the church. I see this as a priority over the next year or two so that we can afford the mission that we want to do.

Finally I am sorry that I am not able to be at most 11am services at present and am aware of the concerns that this raises for some. I am grateful to John Stevenson, Ken Baker and Gilly Beardmore for their help in ensuring consistent personnel and worship at the main service week by week. I intend that both this service and the new 4pm service will grow over the next few years and that our ability to offer more worship and more choice will help us grow.

I look forward to learning more about you and the community, discerning the gifts of the whole body of Christ here, praying for you, worshipping with you, serving you and being a disciple with you in 2017. As long as we put Christ at the centre of all that we do God will bless our endeavours and faith. If we worship other idols (novelty, building, money, traditions etc) we shall struggle.

Revd Canon Sarah Brown