

ST PETER & ST PAUL, PETTISTREE WITH LOUDHAM
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 2015

Requirements

The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements of the Church Representation Rules, which state that an annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the activities of the parish generally is to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Because the report must be written for the general public as well as for church members, it has to include information that church members might take for granted, such as the need to identify the parish church and describe how the PCC operates.

General Information

Church: Saint Peter & Saint Paul
Walnuts Lane, Pettistree, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0HR.

Incumbent: Rev. Dr. J. F. Eldridge,
The Vicarage, Crown Lane, Wickham Market, IP13 0SA.

Correspondent: PCC Secretary, Miss L. Merriam
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Bankers: Barclays Bank
4 Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1DT.

Examiner: Mrs P. Booth ATT, The Timbers, Church Rd. Kettleburgh. IP13 7LE

Church Return :

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| • Electoral Roll | 52 |
| • Average Weekly Adult Attendance | 28 (Typical Sunday) |
| • Average Weekly Young Persons Attendance | 0 (Typical Sunday) |

The Church

The Church of St Peter and St Paul is the parish church of Pettistree with Loudham, and is in the centre of the village of Pettistree adjacent to The Greyhound pub. The Parish is part of a benefice with Wickham Market; the vicarage is in Wickham Market.

There is also the Church or Parish room (a Victorian addition once used as a Sunday-school room) which contains a toilet, and the Churchyard which is still 'open' for burials with a footpath across it; the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Measure 1991 is the legislation for the buildings and the PCC must comply with the Churchyard Rules made by the Chancellor of the Diocese.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Pettistree with Loudham PCC is a charity and the members are the trustees. Its aim, under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for all ecclesiastical parish finance, its management and control, including the appointment of a treasurer. Correspondence should be addressed to the PCC Secretary, Linda Merriam.

Members of the PCC during 2015 were:

- Kevin Blyth Churchwarden
- Martin Corral (Treasurer from APCM 2015)
- Mary Garner (Tower Captain, Treasurer until APCM 2015)
- Jeff Hallett
- Maggie Hallett (Churchwarden, Deanery Synod)
- Joan Jordan
- Brian Nobbs (until APCM 2015)
- Ian Richards (from APCM 2015)
- Daphne Rose (Deanery Synod)
- Rita Smith
- Lynette Tucker
- Carolyn Westrope
- Mike Whitaker

The PCC holds funds as a corporate body and does not have any related trusts or charities. There are no sub-committees. The Standing committee consists of the vicar, church wardens, treasurer and one PCC member.

The APCM is held in March or April following a meeting to elect churchwardens, in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and PCC meetings normally take place every three months. During 2015 the average attendance at PCC meetings has been 90% of all members.

Present Situation

The Reverend Doctor John Frederick Eldridge is the incumbent of the benefice and lives with his family in the Vicarage in Wickham Market. Retired clergy living within the benefice have continued to take services in the parish and their contribution is very much appreciated by the congregation. There are also Lay Elders and a Lay Minister attached to the benefice and they have led services in Pettistree.

Review of the Year

The church is unlocked and open for visitors during day-light hours which is welcomed by parishioners and visitors, and remarks in the Visitors book are often very complimentary. The parish room has been regularly used for social events associated with church services, PCC and Parish council meetings.

The majority of the congregation live outside the parish, but mainly from within the Wickham Market benefice, and this also applies to the monthly Friday morning service which is arranged by Rev.Margaret Blackall. That service is designed to be a quiet contemplative style of service and attracts a congregation of more than 30 both from within the benefice and local villages the majority of whom adjourn for coffee and cake in The Greyhound afterwards.

The Remembrance service was led by the Rev Rob Rose with a brief 'Act of Remembrance' at the War memorial on November 11th. This including the 2 minute silence at 11.00am and the Pettistree Village poppy wreath was laid at the village war memorial in the churchyard. It was well attended both by regular church goers and villagers and was followed by coffee and cake in The Greyhound

At the hand-over from the builders following the redecoration of the Nave during 2014, minor flaking of the new paint was noted and presumed to be caused by some rising damp from an area of new plaster, however over the next 2 weeks this flaking became widespread and during 2015 the architect, builder and paint manufacturer have been attempting to discover why this has happened and to present a solution as to how the problem can be rectified.

This ongoing difficulty has meant that the George IIIrd Coat of Arms, which was beautifully restored during 2014 has not been returned to the church but is in safe storage at a local farm. The situation

at present is that on advice from the Diocesan Registrar a firm of Solicitors has been instructed as the PCC may have to resort to legal action.

The bell ringers remain an important part of church life and practise regularly, all Sunday services are preceded by ringing and many special services and events are also marked. They are the only church group where young people may be regular attendees (apart from ordinary services) so the tower captain is particularly careful about their supervision. They have an annual outing to different regions and also visit other local churches.

The 'Vision' group set up following the visit of Rev. Dave Gardner, the Diocesan Director of Mission, suggested various ways to enable the current congregation to reach out to the wider community. An afternoon parish walk was held including tea at a local farm in early June, and a Barbecue lunch following the church service was attended by members of the congregation and villagers. The Harvest festival service was changed from its previous place in the calendar to be an 11.00 am service and was followed by a Ploughmans Lunch. A Christingle service was held, another first for Pettistree church, this was on a weekday to enable the Presmere nursery children and staff to attend and was very much appreciated by them and their parents. The style of this service was aimed particularly at pre-school and reception age, so complemented the service at All Saints Wickham Market which is more suitable for the older primary age children..

There are several Benefice House groups who meet at least monthly, none of these are based in the parish, but around a quarter of the regular congregation are members of a group.

The PCC continue to bear in mind the requirements for Disabled Access, Health & Safety and Young People and are following diocesan guidelines on these topics. Fixtures & fittings and the trees in the churchyard are checked, as are the tombstones. A ramp is available for wheelchair access and the sidesmen and churchwardens are available for assistance if required. An induction loop to improve access to the services for those using hearing-aids is installed and is used at every service.

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll was renewed in April 2013. There are 52 names on the roll, of whom less than a quarter reside in the parish.

Church Accounting Regulations

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and associated Church of England Guidance and Regulations document ensure that, by following them, the PCC meets the requirements of the Charities Act and the Charities Accounting Regulations.

Diocesan guidelines are adhered to with regard to handling of all monies. The PCC are extremely grateful to Mary Garner who completed her term as Treasurer, and to Martin Corral who has taken on the role from April 2015. The Financial statement presented with this report seems simple but the PCC appreciate that the Treasurer and his predecessor have prepared the accounts promptly in a very clear way.

Congregation

Sunday congregations have averaged 28 adults. The source for these figures is the Services Register, and the person taking the service is included. An 'average congregation' figure does not reflect the churchgoing numbers in the benefice accurately as some of the congregation may attend services elsewhere on the same Sunday.

Services

The major festival services were well supported, highlights of the Christmas period were the well attended Carol Service and the Christmas Eve midnight communion service. The PCC realise that we are very lucky to have two members of the church who are prepared to play the organ regularly for services. The main Sunday Services have remained in the same pattern during the

year. The 9.30 am services are well-attended and followed by a time of fellowship when tea and coffee are served using the space at the rear of the church that was created by removing three pews on the south side of the Nave. The Evensong service on the first Sunday of the month is also well attended and is obviously appreciated by the congregation which comes from the whole benefice. The Friday monthly communion has been described previously and has continued to be a particularly successful service.

At the suggestion of the 'Vision Group' an opportunity for personal prayer has been introduced after the service initially once a month. There are already within the congregation sufficient trained people to enable there to be two people to assist with this time of individual prayer.

As the congregation has continued to grow in numbers, five lay members of the congregation have been granted permission by the Bishop to assist with distributing the chalice at Holy Communion services.

The liturgy is on a printed leaflet for each service as the PCC feel this makes a possibly unfamiliar service accessible for any visitors, and special services have a customized service sheet. New better quality service booklets are in preparation and will be used from mid 2016.

The pattern of services each month is:

1st Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
3 rd Friday	10.30 am	Mid-week communion
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
5th Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Aims for 2016

To review the times and style of services to ensure that these fulfil the requirements of the majority of the congregation, following the Vision groups recommendations.

To strengthen the links between the church and the wider village community

To continue to try to get the redecoration problem fixed

on behalf of the PCC :

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Chairman

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Date