

APCM 2020 Summary of reports

Annual Report

Katie Cowen (KC) reported that Reedham Church has been active in many different ways during the past year. The Rector and Lay Ministers, with the help of the Revd. David Casson and Canon Peter Doll, have made it possible for the regular pattern of worship to be maintained on most Sundays despite the departure of Revd. Lorna Allies at the end of December 2018. The Church also hosted a musical celebration of Easter with the Benefice Choir in May 2019 - 'Thy Lord is Risen'; and the Benefice Carol Service in December.

The Churchyard Maintenance group has remained active and we have been joined by children from Reedham Primary School on various occasions. The Bell Ringers have continued their progress and, although some of the original group who joined during the 2018 'Ringing Remembers' recruitment have had to leave, an enthusiastic body still meets (virtually, during the current Covid 19 restrictions). Increasing attention is being paid to the good maintenance of the bells and equipment – regular checks are being made and logged, there was a major cleaning of the Ringing and Silence Chambers, and money is being raised by sponsored Rings to carry out repairs and renewal of the mechanism.

The PCC has met 7 times since the Annual Meeting, with good attendance. We now have two Church Wardens once again, but mourned the loss of a member of the PCC and very active part of our Church family during the year. We have made a particular effort during the year to think strategically about how to fulfil our mission of sharing the Good News and growing our Church, spiritually and numerically. This has included how best to make use of our assets, including the church building, our people and skills, and our finances.

To this end, we have tried to make the building more welcoming by a major overhaul of the heating. The new system is a great improvement even if the temperature will never be tropical in mid-winter. We are in process of renewing the notice board at the gate and have had the very rutted drive levelled and re-pebbled. The sloping path from the upper to the lower churchyard has been concreted and a hand rail fitted as it was becoming dangerous. The Tower Room has been converted from a little used Visitors' Information Room to a cosy base for Chill Church. New foldable chairs have been bought so extra seating did not have to be stored there. These have proved very useful both for well attended funerals and for the Easter Concert. Further plans to encourage visitors to think about the Church's message as well as the building's history have been made, but put on hold while the building is closed during the Pandemic.

Also on hold are plans to work more closely with Limpenhoe Church and the rest of the Deanery in our activities with children. However, Chill Church has been very active during the year, attending events at the Cathedral and the Archdeacon's Charge as well as having regular meetings. Attendance has been erratic – numbers fell very low until a Sunday when, the Benefice having been asked to pray for the group, numbers suddenly grew to the extent that the leaders could hardly cope! Having a service at the Annual Beer Festival and the possibility of a 'lighter' service once a month have also had to be postponed.

Consideration has also been given on how to make the Church more Eco friendly. We have been exploring the possibility of using a projector and screen so paper is not wasted on single

use service booklets and also new hymns and songs can be introduced easily. It is proposed to move the energy supplier to Bulb and a small recycling bin has been placed near the church kitchen.

Support for the local community has been continued in the production of the Benefice Magazine and Community Newsletter at the church. This was very useful in distributing information on Community help at the beginning of the epidemic; it continues 'on-line' while it is unsafe to hand deliver hard copies. Church members are taking an active part in the local Covid 19 group, helping with shopping and contact for the isolated. A collection box for the Great Yarmouth Food Bank was transferred to the church as it could no longer be at the Post Office, and was well supported while the building was still open.

The Church has also been fulfilling its obligations in relation to Safeguarding and Data Protection. Training should now be up to date for Safeguarding and Data Protection standards being observed.

The church roof continues to be of concern. Repairs have been made to the major leak at the east end of the Nave roof, but there is an intermittent leak over one of the north windows and after high winds even clipped tiles have shifted. In the Quinquennial Report, the Architect expressed concern about the Ringing Chamber rail. A firm has been approached to produce plans for a stronger replacement. Some woodwork painting has also been recommended. Otherwise the building and goods and ornaments are in good repair.

Also of concern are the activities of rabbits in the churchyard. In the lower area extensive burrows have been made, distressing those whose family members are buried there and risking toppling gravestones. Various means have been tried to discourage the rabbits, such as a high frequency movement triggered alarm, moth balls down the holes and blocking the burrow entrances. There is a reluctance to resort to having them shot or poisoned as this seems inconsistent with our wildlife friendly policy. It is also likely to be only a short-term solution, given the breeding power of the animals.

Reedham Church has been well represented at the Benefice Council and has taken part in many co-operative schemes across the Benefice. Involvement with 'Open the Book' continues and Reedham has joined Freethorpe, Halvergate, and Wickhampton in their Churches Together Group.

Of particular joy this year was the Ordination as Deacon in Chelmsford of a former church member and 'child' of Reedham Church; many from the village and Benefice attended the event in September.

The PCC has, during the year concerned, had due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults (more details in the Safeguarding Report).

Church Electoral Roll Report

Rachel Holt reported that the Electoral Roll was revised on 14th April 2020 and now stands at 27. The changes were 1 deceased.

Financial Report

Charlotte Lonsdale (CL) reported the certificate of the examination of the reports an updated version of the reports is available in the appendix.

Funds

Overall, funds dropped by £10k due to excess payments. This is largely attributable to spending from the restricted funds. General fund has only dropped £800 (2018 - £800) meaning, in essence we have largely met our day-to-day expenses including Parish share.

- New reserve for Outlook (legacy) from 2017 located - for equipment - £500.
- Choir Music – transferred to Benefice Choir Fund (per previous meeting).
- Chill church fund – nearly spent - £80 remaining.
- Burgess legacy (churchyard) and Baldra legacy (church improvements) are now fully utilised and the Fabric Maintenance Fund is near to fully utilised.

Payments

- Payments for year are £31k (2018 - £22k) – an increase of £9k.
- Generally the payments are consistent year on year.
- The increase is due to the capital expenditure i.e. heaters, outdoor lights, conservation and church sign, Church path and Church drive and the Fixtures and fittings, Chairs and shelving which total £12.5k compared to £3.5k.

Receipts - Receipts for the year are £21k not dissimilar from last year (2018 - £21.5k), marginally down. The various types of Donations total the same as 2018, but the split is different.

Some increases:

- Choir Receipts and Bell Fund Donations totally £1.5k (2018 - £200).
- The £1.7k for the field rental is included.

The reductions are:

- No Christmas tree festival (2018 - £1.6k) counteracts the field rental.
- No legacy in this year (2018 - £1k).
- A reduction in statutory fees which were down by £600.

Magazine - Payments and receipts are both down by roughly the same amount – £200 & £250 respectively.

Other notes - They might change slightly as I need to do a few checks and balances.

The total funds will remain as £93k.

Nicholas Cowen (NC) proposed adopting this updated version of accounts (and additional £200 of income); this was seconded by Jonathan Lonsdale (JL) and the PCC accepted this report. The PCC would like share their appreciation to CL for undertaking this work.

Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church

Edward Gilder(EG) Fabric Officer reported the high level leak on the south side of the roof has been fixed. This was (reluctantly) done by a roofing contractor using ladders. Previously this work has been done by Jeff Attowe builders, very cheaply. The use of roofing contractors proved to be an expensive last resort as Attowe seemed uninterested in responding to calls. This leaves the water damage to the ceiling unrepaired, as he had previously committed to doing that work.

We now have a leak low down on the north side of the roof and again, on the advice of Nicholas Warns, the church architect, I have tried to get Attowe's to look at this and price for clipping the tiles, but without any luck. The whole roof really needs proper overhaul. Much of the underfelt on the north side has perished and would offer little protection against water if we continue to lose tiles.

We will need to consider how we are going to address this in the forthcoming year

I have had further discussions with Nicholas Warns about repairs to the Vestry roof parapet and window. This will require the attention of a stone mason. Nicholas has again recommend Attowe or Phoenix Build who have been working at Beighton. Immediately prior to the lockdown I had resolved to give up on Attowe, as they seem disinterested in doing any more work for us and had resolved to contact Phoenix Build. As soon as I am able to arrange a meeting with them – (subject to appropriate distancing) I will invite them to price the work.

The Quinquennial review identified the need to replace the flimsy Ringing Chamber railing with something more substantial, particularly now that regular bell ringing has recommenced. Alma Iron Craft has visited and provided an estimate for the work. They have repeatedly been asked to provide a drawing of what we discussed, so that a faculty can be obtained before the work is commissioned. Neither of the two drawings so far provided have been acceptable. The most recent one included decorative finials which were definitely not discussed! I will, when I can get access to the church, measure up and prepare a drawing to agree with Alma so that the faculty can be obtained.

The broken drawer runners in the kitchen cupboard are to be replaced. I have new runners, but the drawers will need altering before the runners can be fitted. As soon as the church is re-opened I will attend to this.

The PCC would like share their appreciation to EG for undertaking this work.

Safeguarding Report

Diana Gilder (DG) Parish Safeguarding Officer reported that during the year, two church officers and five bell ringers have trained to their required levels.

Of the 26 people who require training in Reedham, only two have not completed it. One is physically unable to access it, the other is yet to access it, but has safeguarding training in her professional role, over and above that which is required by the church.

Policies and procedures:

The church is up to date with almost all of the requirements.

DBS Checks and Confidential Declarations:

All DBS checks are up to date, except one elderly PCC member.

All Confidential Declarations are up to date.

As a result, I feel that Reedham Church can say that it is complying with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Data Protection Report

Jonathan Lonsdale (JL) reported that Data Protection continues to be reviewed and adhered to in line with the Diocesan Guidelines, there have been no issues reported.

Report on Deanery Synod 2019

Nicholas Cowen reported: Meetings in 2019:

07.02.2019 at Acle – A meeting focussing on the Celebrate strand of our strategic plan. A presentation by two of the Norwich Diocese communications team focussing on dealing with social media; and then a presentation on the Deanery Newsletter.

13.06.2019 at Reedham –Focussing on the Empower strand, a presentation on the theme of Building Dementia-friendly Communities: by Rev Gill Wells, Team Vicar from Shipdham, dwelling on problems of memory & perception that affect people with dementia, and by Gaye Hailstone from Yare Valley Churches about how her parish has striven to be dementia friendly.

21.09.2019 at Blofield – Deanery Resourcing Day. Unfortunately, this event coincided with Readers' Day at the Cathedral, so I was unable to attend!

17.10.2019 at Blofield – Focussing on the Empower strand, a presentation from Sue Smith, sub-warden of Readers for Norfolk East, on the role of a Reader. "I have come realize that God invites every human being to offer something to the life of the world, some unique task, or something done in our own unique way – a 'song to sing for others' that is our own" – an interesting point to explore.

Further consideration given to the Deanery Newsletter, looking at content, helpfulness, ease of access & width of distribution.

13.11.2019 at Lingwood -Visitation by the new Bishop, Rt Rev Graham Usher: a mutual introduction of the bishop & the deanery.