

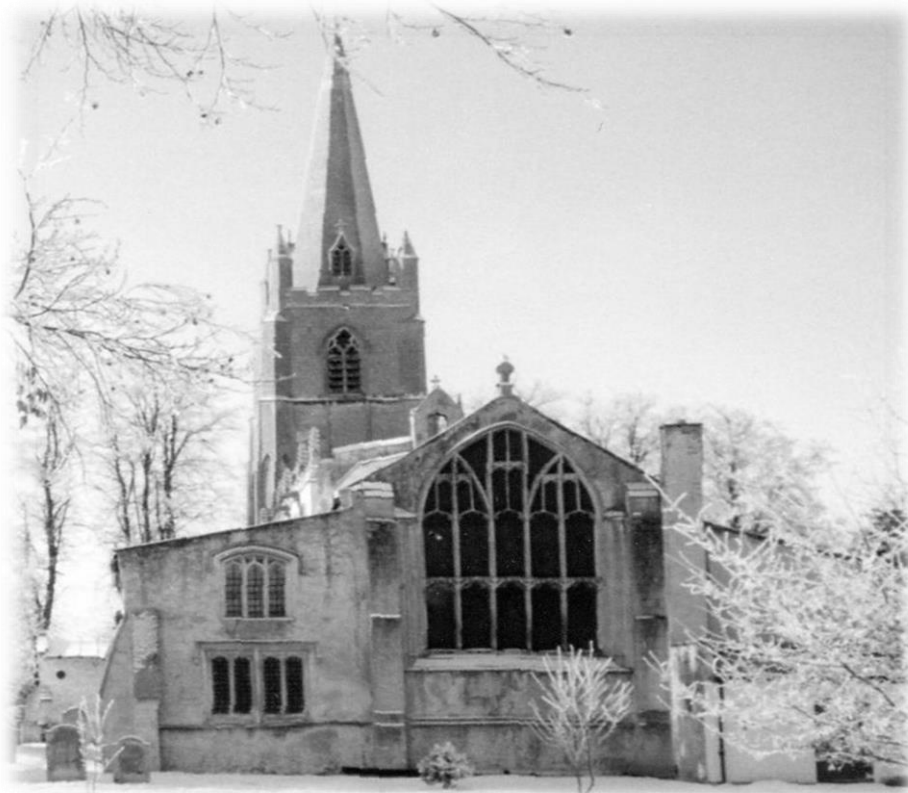
**All Saints Church Walsoken**  
**Diocese of Ely**

# The Annual Report

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Year ending 31st December 2021

“Placing the Church at the Centre of the Community”



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## **Election of Church Wardens 2022**

A Meeting of Parishioners will be held in the north aisle on:  
Sunday, **24<sup>th</sup> April 2022** after the 10.30am Morning Service.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021
3. Elections of Churchwardens for 2022 - 2023

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow the Meeting of Parishioners.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Financial Report and Adoption of 2021 Accounts
5. Fabric Report
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Safeguarding Report
8. Health and Safety Report
9. Deanery Synod Report
10. Report of Church Activities
11. Elections
  - a) 2 Parochial Church Council Representatives to serve until 2025
  - b) Sidespersons to serve for 1 year
12. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts
13. Appointment of Parish Representatives
  - a) Christian Aid
  - b) Churches Together in Wisbech
  - c) Women's World Day of Prayer

**P. R. Wadlow**  
**PCC Secretary**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on:  
Sunday, 16th May 2021 in the north aisle of  
the Parish Church.**

**Present:**

The Rector and 16 Parishioners.

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Madeline Johnson.

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 as printed in the Annual Report, were approved and signed.

**Election of Churchwardens 2021-2022**

The Rector informed the Meeting that he had received two nominations for the position of Churchwarden.

Mr Anthony Peppercorn proposed by Miss Jacky Spooner and seconded by Mrs Viv Key, and Mr Peter Wadlow proposed by Mr Trevor Gilbert and seconded by Mr John Breeze.

The two nominations were approved unanimously and the Rector declared that Mr Peppercorn and Mr Wadlow had been duly elected to serve as Churchwardens 2021-2022.

The Rector asked for his thanks to be recorded in the Minutes to Mr Peppercorn and Mr Wadlow for their support and efforts in what had been a most challenging year because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

**P. R. Wadlow**

**PCC Secretary**

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on:  
16th May 2021, in the north aisle of the Parish Church.**

**Present:**

The Rector, both Churchwardens and 14 Parishioners.

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Madeline Johnson.

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 were approved and signed.

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**Financial Report and Adoption of 2020 Accounts:**

A brief report on the 2020 Accounts, printed in the Annual Report, and was given by the Treasurer, Mrs Peppercorn.

In a difficult year because of Covid restrictions resulting in the church being closed for many weeks and with no fundraising events possible Income from all sources had fallen from £42,548-39 in 2019 to £37,048-11 in 2020.

Expenditure had been pegged back from £42,803-53 in 2019 to £35,678-93 in 2020.

The Treasurer pointed out that one of the most encouraging factors for income had been Planned Giving by Standing Orders together with some generous donations.

Efforts had been made to limit expenditure but once again it had not proved possible to pay Parish Share in full.

The balances at the end of 202 had been General Fund £10,818-71, General Investment Fund £3,626-51, Fabric Fund £1,148-11, F S Young's Legacy £295-41 and Bell Fund £0-19.

The Adoption of the 2019 Accounts was proposed by Mr Poore, seconded by Mr Whitehead and carried unanimously.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer, Mrs Peppercorn for all her hard work in a very difficult year and also thanked all who contributed financially to the work of All Saints' Church.

### **Fabric Report**

Mr Wadlow explained that because of Covid there had been no progress made on securing grant aid for the re-leading of the nave roof and that the building remained on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Mr Wadlow then informed the meeting that Norwich Electrical had carried out the first phase of electrical work identified in the Electrical Fixed Wire Installation Inspection Report, at a cost of £2,696-40.

Normal items of annual maintenance and servicing had been undertaken which included servicing of the heating system, testing and maintenance of fire equipment, the roof beam alarm system, organ tuning, maintenance of the bells and inspection of the lightning protection system.

Mr Peppercorn reported on efforts made to investigate the installation of a fall arrest system for the north and south aisle roofs and explained that competitive prices were awaited from 3 Contractors. The Rector thanked both Churchwardens for their efforts looking after the fabric of the church.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

The Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs Newman, reported that following revision of the Roll 6 names had been removed and none added. The total number on the Roll was now 60.

The Rector thanked Mrs Newman for revising the Roll.

### **Safeguarding Report**

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Miss Spooner reported that 2020 had been a very quiet year and that her main effort had been spent in bringing the safeguarding records up to date. Miss Spooner informed the meeting that she was currently gathering in the Data Protection forms filled in by church members and that most of the Diocesan Safeguarding Training was now given online.

## **Health and Safety Report**

The Health and Safety Adviser, Mr Peppercorn reported that all Covid restrictions and measures had been implemented. The Rector urged anyone seeing any health and safety concerns to report them to any Church Officer.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Mr Breeze, Deanery Synod Representative gave a brief report on the Deanery Synod. The Synod had welcomed the new Rural Dean, Revd. Nigel Whitehouse in 2020 and had also agreed a new revised approach to Deanery Share Apportionment.

The Rector expressed thanks to all who had given reports.

## **Reports of Church Activities**

The Reports of Church Activities as printed in the Annual Report were duly noted.

Mrs Olivia O'Neill then outlined her role as Family Support Worker in the Wisbech Market Towns Initiative and gave details of a new initiative called Doves and Donuts starting in church on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Mrs O' Neill further outlined details of a community plan which would require the setting up of a Church Community Committee and explained the setting up of a new group called Believe. The Rector informed the meeting that he was in discussion with Mrs O'Neill about Café Church.

## **ELECTIONS**

### **Parochial Church Council to serve until 2024**

Mr Poore was proposed by Miss Spooner, seconded by Mr Peppercorn and Mrs Newman was proposed by Mr Newman and seconded by Mr Mead.

There were no further nominations and Mr Poore and Mrs Newman were unanimously elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council until 2024.

### **Sidespersons**

It was proposed by Mr Wadlow, seconded by Mrs Peppercorn and carried unanimously that all existing Sidespersons be re-elected for the following year. The Rector thanked the Sidespersons for their important ministry.

### **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts**

It was proposed by Mrs Peppercorn, seconded by Mrs Newman and carried unanimously that Mr Kevin Brooks be re-appointed as Examiner of Accounts.

### **Appointment of Parish Representatives**

The following were appointed:

- Christian Aid – Mrs June Gleaves
- Churches Together in Wisbech – Mr Ronald Whitehead and Mrs Olivia O'Neill
- World Day of Prayer – Mrs Carrie Mills.

The Rector closed the Annual Meeting by asking for his thanks to be recorded to all Officers and Members of the Church Council, to all Representatives of Walsoken Church and to all who supported the ministry, work and activities of the church.

**P. R. Wadlow**  
**PCC Secretary.**

# **CHURCH REPORTS**

# The Rector's Report

I think it's fair to say that 2020, the year of the pandemic, was without doubt one of the most difficult and unusual years I have ever known, and I know most other people felt the same way. It was a year no one will ever forget, though perhaps most of us would like to. So we were all hoping that 2021 would be better.

Initially however, at the beginning of the year it just seemed like more of the same, as we found ourselves in yet another national lockdown immediately following the New Year celebrations. On this occasion though – for the first time during a lockdown – churches had the option of staying open and offering in-person worship services, and this is something I chose to do.

We didn't however, simply re-instate our normal 8am and 10:30 services. Instead, I ran a 10am "Lockdown Special", a shorter, Said Communion service. There was no homily, but a weekly sermon was available online. Although attendance wasn't huge, numbers were nevertheless sufficient to justify holding the service - clearly we were meeting a need. This third national lockdown lasted for nearly three months, but we were able to resume our normal pattern of services again on Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – just in time for Easter.

With the resumption of normal services (although we were still under some covid restrictions, such as mask wearing) there was a rising level of optimism that we were perhaps, if not yet out of the pandemic, we were at the least witnessing the beginning of the end. This feeling that the worst might just now be behind us was also due very much to the fact that people had now been vaccinated - double jabbed and boosted.

So, although 2021 had started with a lockdown, by Easter things were looking much brighter and we were now starting to think about how we might begin the task of rebuilding, following the decline we had endured as a worshipping community as a result of the pandemic.

In the May, a new, informal service was started by Olivia O'Neill, as part of the Market Towns Initiative called "Doves and Donuts". This was a sort of cross between a Coffee Morning and Café Church. Each week a different topic was discussed and people shared thoughts and ideas around that topic and donuts were eaten along the way. It ran for about an hour. The main purpose of this service was to attract people who wouldn't normally come to a traditional church service. It was a bold and interesting initiative and, although it was supported by some of our regular congregation, it failed to gain any real traction and only ran for six weeks.

Although the lockdowns were now behind us and our normal services had been running again for some weeks, attendance was still noticeably lower than pre-pandemic levels – it was clear that some people had used covid as an opportunity to end their association with the church. Our Usual Sunday Attendance (USA) figure is currently, on average, about 10 lower than in 2019, the last full year before Covid, and that has remained true into 2022.

Whilst some people have chosen not to return, we had also lost people due to their either moving away to live nearer family or had become too ill and infirm to continue attending in person. In addition, we lost others who had passed away. At the same time as we were losing people, due to the pandemic and the lockdowns etc. it was also proving difficult to draw new people in. So this was something of a "double whammy" – people leaving through the back door, but with the front



door locked still pretty much locked. Looking ahead then, the task of rebuilding and strengthening our worshipping community has to be our main priority in 2022 and beyond.

We had our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May (delayed due to the pandemic) and we reflected on the difficult year behind us, but also tried to look to a more positive future; but the very fact we were able to hold an in-person APCM, was itself a positive step and a sign that normality was beginning to return, albeit slowly.

In August 2021 we published our first Weekly Bulletin Sheet since March 2020 - the last one before covid. So again this was another small but important step towards recovering and getting back to church life as it once was.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study resumed in August following the easing of covid restrictions. We'd had a long break – almost 18 months. It was decided to meet in the Tom Walters Community Room as it gave us an airy space where we could still maintain a certain amount of social distancing. We started our new series of studies looking at the life of Samuel, after which we will move on to the prophet Elijah.

Our fortnightly Friday Coffee Mornings also restarted in the summer - again, another sign of a return to normality - and their resumption was very much welcomed. It was nice to see that they quickly proved as popular as they ever had been, and my thanks again to Trevor and Janice for their hard work with this popular church activity.

At the beginning of September it was decided to hold a Post Covid Cleaning Party, organised by Jacky Spooner, to help get the fabric and layout of the building back to how it used to be. For example, the yellow tape used to limit access to certain pews and other parts of the church, was removed and of course, much cleaning needed to be done. I'm very grateful to all those who came along and helped with this. It was a team effort, and it was good to get the church back to normal again.

Other activities also began to find their way back into the church programme once again. We had a Hog Roast evening in September, our first in over two years, and we also had our annual Quiz Night at the beginning of October. Both of these events were organised by Trevor and Janice Dyke, and again my thanks to them for putting on these two, quite successful events.

Bingo sessions from the Village Hall also started up again, and proved to be very successful indeed, raising a significant amount of money for specific projects - in particular helping fund a replacement roof alarm system, among other things. For further information on this please see both the Fabric Report and the Annual Accounts.

In October we were finally able to host the long postponed World Day of Prayer, which should have been held in the March, but we were in lockdown. The service on this occasion was prepared by the people of the Island of Vanuatu. Carrie Mills was our representative on the local organising committee, and the service went very well with a good attendance. My thanks to Carrie for her hard work in organising this service, and of course, all those who helped her.

The autumn also saw the return of the schools to some church based activity. We held (for the first time ever, actually) a Harvest Experience Day for both St. Peter's School and Clarkson Infant School. These educational days, organised by Jacky Spooner, and run by a team of volunteers, are really appreciated by the schools and very much enjoyed by the children, and are an important part of our outreach to the children of the parish. We ran similar school days again in December, called the Christmas Experience. We couldn't do these days without the help of volunteers who man the

various bases that form the heart of this activity. Again my sincere thanks to Jacky and all those who help her with this.

Also in October we had our first Table Top Sale to help with fundraising and also as a community outreach activity. This was another initiative organised and headed up by Jacky Spooner with the help of a team of volunteers. This was followed up with a Christmas Table Top Sale in November, and the extra income was welcome and my appreciation to all involved.

At the beginning of November we issued our first Parish Magazine in nearly 18 months. Again this was another step towards a return to a more normal way of parish life. There were a number of interesting articles and I'm grateful to all who contributed and especially to Bob Cox our Magazine Editor.

After the difficulties we had with our Christmas Programme in 2020, which was significantly disrupted, it was a welcome relief to be able to hold our annual Carol Service once more, and although numbers were down on previous years, it was nevertheless good to be able to offer this very popular seasonal service again. However, the traditional mulled wine and mince pies afterwards were withheld due to covid safety concerns. We did hold a service on Christmas Day but the traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was not re-instated as it was felt that the likely attendance would not justify holding this service and many people were still extremely reluctant to accept wine from an open chalice. This service had been in noticeable decline for a number of years even before the pandemic, and it is perhaps time to review this service.

In many ways then, 2021 saw the life of the church slowly begin to return to normal, but by the end of the year, despite the progress we had made, welcome as it was, we were still some way short of being back where we were at the end 2019 before this all began. One of the most obvious areas of concern is attendance, which is still down on pre-covid levels. Another issue that will need to be addressed, is the almost complete lack of children and young people. Although we still have a Family Service on the second Sunday of the month, children are conspicuous now only by their absence. Also, we have not yet re-started our Messy Church, but this is on the agenda for 2022.

## **Fabric**

The biggest news on the fabric front for last year was the fitting of a new Roof Alarm System. It was decided that the existing roof alarm from CTS was no-longer fit for purpose, as it was completely unreliable and ineffective. We needed to upgrade. The PCC made the decision to accept a proposal from a company called E-Bound, who specialise in church security. It was going to cost £7,500 so we applied to a number of grant-giving bodies for funding, and were successful in receiving grants from the AllChurches Trust and the Robert Hall Charity. We also raised £1,000 through the Village Hall Bingo as well. Together, this proved sufficient to fund the project in full. I'm very grateful to all those who gave of their time and effort in helping to make this project a success.

For more details on this and other fabric issues from last year, can I refer you to the Churchwardens' Report on page 10, and the Fabric Report on page 13.

## **Finance**

With regards to church income there is little doubt that the pandemic has hit us hard and our finances have most certainly suffered. Whilst many people have been very generous during the

pandemic, and I'm certainly grateful for that, we have also had a number of people reduce the amount they are giving or cancel their monthly Standing Orders altogether.

Although we managed to pay more Parish Share in 2021 than we did in 2020, which is a good thing, we are still falling quite some way short of what the Deanery are asking and this remains our biggest challenge financially. Looking at how we can revitalise and renew our finances, will have to be one of our main priorities going forward. For details of income and expenditure can I refer you to the Annual Accounts on page 20, and many thanks to Gill Peppercorn for all her hard work as Treasurer in preparing the Accounts.

## **Finally**

I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during yet another difficult and challenging year. It isn't practical to name everyone individually, but I would like to mention our two Churchwardens - Peter Wadlow and Tony Peppercorn, for their help and support. Peter is also one of our two Deanery Synod reps, and Tony also acts as verger for weddings and funerals.

I'd also like to thank Jacky Spooner for her ministry as our ALM Children's Worker and Safeguarding Officer, and Ron Whitehead as our ALM Pastoral Assistant. Gill Peppercorn for her work as Treasurer, and of course all those who serve on the PCC. I'd also like to thank John Breeze for his ministry as Organist, Choirmaster and also as one of our Deanery Synod Reps, and Bob Cox for his work as Tower Captain, Magazine Editor and Web Master.

I'd like to thank the choir too, as well as All Saints Band, headed up by Lee Newman. I'd like to thank Trevor and Janice Dyke for organising the coffee mornings as well as the Hog Roast and Quiz Night. Finally, I'd also like to mention all those who read lessons, lead intercessions and serve as sidespeople – all important aspects of our church ministry.

**Rev. Allan Roy Landall**

**Rector.**

**March 2022**

## **Churchwardens' Report**

2021 was once again a challenging time to be a churchwarden. The Covid pandemic was still a major issue and resulted in the meeting to elect churchwardens being put back to 16th May 2021.

As in 2020 Covid was responsible for the cancellation of Archdeacons' Visitations. These are occasions when newly elected Churchwardens are sworn into Office usually at various churches in the Archdeaconry. However 2021 saw Virtual Visitations where newly elected Churchwardens signed up to one of a series of Visitations on Zoom.

As the summer progressed restrictions began to be eased and some normality returned to church services in late July. Facemasks were still advised and a one way system of receiving communion at the communion rail was introduced. Hymn singing was also re-introduced albeit while wearing a face mask.

Churchwardens endeavoured to be present at almost all the Sunday services. It was good that Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, Christingle and Carol Service were all able to be held.

Thanks are due to all those who helped with fundraising activities .We wish to thank all those who contribute financially to All Saints and all who help in so many ways. Thanks are also due to the Organist and Choir for singing from the chancel when services were permitted again, to Sidespersons, lesson readers and intercession leaders, refreshment providers, flower arrangers and organisers of the coffee mornings. It is also good to hear our church bells being rung on some Sundays.

The worshipping life of the church was disrupted but the care of the actual building itself continued. One of the major responsibilities of Churchwardens is the fabric of the building. All Saints dates back over 800 years and in the past 30 years much has been spent on modernising and improving the interior of the church.

However a major concern has been the ineffectiveness of the roof alarm system. It was a major headache and a considerable expense. There were untold false alarms causing the named persons on the system much inconvenience at all hours of the day and night.

Fortunately at long last we have a new system in operation and a full account appears in the Fabric Report. As Churchwardens we have continued to support the Rector in his ministry to the Parish.

**Peter Wadlow**  
**Tony Peppercorn**  
**Churchwardens.**

## **Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report**

The Church Council is made up, currently, of the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Authorised Lay Minister, two Deanery Synod Representatives and six elected members. The elected members serve for a 3 year term. The current membership of the Church Council is:

### **Ex-Officio:**

The Rector:	Revd Allan Landall
The Churchwardens:	Tony Peppercorn Peter Wadlow
Authorised Lay Minister:	Jacky Spooner
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Peter Wadlow
(Elected to serve until 2023)	John Breeze

### **Elected Members of the Church Council:**

Elected to serve until 2022:	Chris Mills Ron Whitehead
Elected to serve until 2023:	Lee Newman Gill Peppercorn
Elected to serve until 2024:	Christine Newman David Poore

As Covid restrictions eased, it was possible for the Church Council to meet in person once again. Social distancing was observed throughout the year and the regular advice from the Bishop on Covid guidelines and their application to churches was closely examined and followed where practicable.

Church Council meetings were held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The Church Council, as always, spent much time looking at church finance. In January the Church Council set a target of paying £18,000 towards Parish Share. This was much below what was set by the Diocese. By December it proved possible to send more and the total Parish Share paid in 2021 amounted to £19,500.

It was possible to have some fundraising events and the Church Council are grateful to Trevor and Janice Dyke for organising the Hog Roast in September and Quiz in October. These two events raised £700 and £300 respectively.

The bingo sessions and table top sales in 2021 raised £3,400. Many thanks are due to Jacky Spooner.

Fabric matters also occupied the Church Council and a separate Fabric Report appears elsewhere.

The Church Council set the Occasional Fees for Weddings and Funerals and increased the heating charge to £90 and introduced a £30 fee for use of the CD equipment and a fee of £75 for use of the digital projector and screen.

Each Church Council Meeting has Health and Safety and Safeguarding on the agenda. At each meeting the Parish Safeguarding Action Plan Level 2 is considered and updated. The Council is also given a regular update on the Market Towns Initiative and how it is operating in Wisbech and Walsoken.

**The Officers of the Church Council are:**

Chairperson:	The Rector
Lay Chairperson:	John Breeze
Secretary:	Peter Wadlow
Treasurer:	Gill Peppercorn
Electoral Roll Officer:	Christine Newman
Health and Safety Adviser:	Tony Peppercorn
Safeguarding Officer:	Jacky Spooner

**P. R. Wadlow**  
**PCC Secretary**

## Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The provisional numbers for the electoral roll is 60. Final numbers will be confirmed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Christine Newman**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

## Fabric Report

The Churchwardens have the legal responsibility to oversee the repair and maintenance of the church fabric.

In the last 30 years, largely funded by 2 major legacies from the estates of the late Claude Coates and the late Arthur Ward, much work has been done inside the church. The list is long and impressive and the church is well adapted to meet the future of worship and general church and community activities.

However successive Quinquennial Inspection Reports have highlighted the urgent need to re-lead the nave roof.

The Church Council helped by Holly Isted from the Diocese in 2020 had been preparing a major bid for a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Unfortunately after spending a whole day working on the application Covid struck and the National Lottery suspended all applications for heritage projects.

At the current time there is no prospect of the National Lottery starting up again the programme for major church repairs. The Church Council continues to look at other options possibly submitting an application for a much smaller type of project.

The listing by Historic England of our church on the National Buildings at risk register may prove useful in future grant applications.

At long last the persistent roof leak in the nave above the churchwarden's pew has been repaired by Eastern Foundry Lead. The cost was just over £500.

We are pleased to be able to report success with the roof beam alarm system. The Church Council was held in a difficult situation by the contractor who refused to go onto the roof without the provision of a fall arrest system. Such a system was expensive and required a faculty. The PCC spent many months pursuing this option but following the informal advice of some members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Geoffrey Hunter from the Diocese and Ruth Blackman our church architect who all questioned why we were considering this option the Church Council decided to abandon any fall arrest system and to seek quotations for a completely new system.

Quotations were received from 3 alarm companies all approved by our church insurers, The PCC awarded the contract to E-Bound to install a wireless alarm system at a cost of £7,500. The work started on 6th December and was completed in 2 days. The Church Council has also bought into an external monitoring system that removes the need for church members to be on call if the alarm is triggered.

Applications for grants were made to the Allchurches Trust, the Robert Hall Charity and the Geoffrey Watling Trust.

The Allchurches Trust awarded its maximum grant of £2,500 and the Robert Hall Charity awarded £3,700 to the work. The VAT charged can be reclaimed so the alarm is paid for. There is an added bonus - the new system installed by an approved EIG contractor and meeting the EIG specification has resulted in a £1,062-13 reduction in our annual insurance premium and we are now 100% covered against lead theft and any resulting damage to the roof. The provision of a reliable and working alarm system is a welcome relief after years of anxiety.

Normal items of annual maintenance and servicing have been carried out as usual. These have included servicing of the heating system, testing and maintenance of fire equipment, organ tuning, and the inspection of the lightning protection system and maintenance of the bells.

Norwich Electrical repaired two of the four external lights on the boiler house chimney. The two lights on the east face of the tower shining down onto the nave roof are to be replaced by E-Bound and the CCTV system inside the church is to be overhauled and upgraded. A new external camera will also be provided. The cost of the CCTV system will be met from some of the proceeds of the bingo sessions.

Wisbech Electrical have attended to the faulty override switch on the porch exit light.

The Church Council, as the legal owner of the churchyard, continues to be grateful to Walsoken Parish Council for the way it is maintaining the churchyard and looking after the trees, walls gates and paths.

**Peter Wadlow**  
**Tony Peppercorn**  
**Churchwardens.**

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Church Representatives: John Breeze and Peter Wadlow. There were three meetings in the 12 month period - July and November 2021 and January 2022.

### **July 2021**

#### **Parish Share**

How to try to raise more contributions? A package of information for each parish was being planned and it was suggested that this be given to parishioners so that they had a better understanding of its need to keep the church going. Giving by text should also be considered. The Paris Giving scheme was also recommended.

#### **Diocesan Synod**

Requirement for churches with a larger income to be registered as a charity.

DBS certification from 2022 will be required to be renewed every three years

Revs M Dale, A. Landall & N. Whitehouse elected to the House of Clergy and Dr D. Peet to the House of Laity.

#### **Mission.**

Deanery plan going ahead with the parishes of Leverington/Newton in the Isle/Tydd St Giles and Wisbech St Mary/Parson Drove/Gorefield to become one group with one incumbent. Thanks were

expressed to Rev Ryk Parkinson for all his work as priest in charge for the Wisbech St Mary group for the past three years. The group of six parishes will have Rev Sandra Gardner as Priest in Charge as from September. Rev Dr Richard Hines had been Minister in Charge of Fen Orchards and will relinquish this position to Rev Nigel Whitehouse in September, who will be Priest in Charge of Elm/Friday Bridge/Emneth, plus Upwell & Outwell parishes.

Deanery Development Plan Copy distributed. It is looking at the availability of clergy. This would be the main item on the September agenda.

Living in Love and Faith: A book produced by Church of England being discussed over the summer at Wisbech St Peter and St Paul.

Lay Chair: Could churches be open during non-service times?

## **November 2021**

### **Correspondence**

Information about the Church Homeless Trust was circulated.

Treasurer: The account with HSBC will incur a £5 monthly charge, plus transaction charges. What are the alternatives?

### **Deanery Plan and Deanery Planning.**

Rev N. Whitehouse read an extract from Living Ely 2025. Perhaps summed up thus: "The task of (planning for the future) should lead us not to restless activism but to focussed work underpinned with prayer as we travel together."

### **Mission**

Subject for The Diocesan subject for Lent 2022 is 'Baggage or Treasure', reflecting on our buildings.

Giving: a document to help parishes with giving mechanisms is available.

Safeguarding is becoming more onerous and Safeguarding feedback should be an item on the next agenda.

## **January 2022**

Treasurer: members remembered Ted Otter, who had recently died.

Day time meeting? Winter meetings could be in the afternoon, but unless otherwise stated future meetings will be at 7.30pm 7th July, 22nd September and 24th November.

Deanery Development Planning. Alex Gullon spoke among other things of the importance that the people in each of our parishes decide and accept responsibility for their own future. So PCCs too, will need to allocate time to help the members of the group with information gathering.

Safeguarding. For those who are finding the current DBS system difficult, recommends that they enrol on the DBS training sessions for PSOs which are run every month.

Updating Parish Giving. Feedback would be welcome.

### **John Breeze**

#### **Deanery Synod Representative**



## Health and Safety Officer's Report

During 2021 we have duly risen to the challenges of Covid-19 and, with guidance from the Diocese, succeeded in making All Saints as safe as possible for all members of the congregation during their time of worship.

As for other Health and Safety issues, I am pleased to say I have nothing to report.

**Tony Peppercorn**  
**Health and Safety Advisor**

## Safeguarding Officer's Report

The Parochial Parish Council (PCC) hold bi-monthly meetings throughout the year. At these PCC meetings Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda, where the Parish Action Plan is discussed. The action plan details all safeguarding actions the church needs to have in place.

This year the Diocesan policy on Safer Recruitment is causing some concern, due to the amount of extra work it generates. After some discussion, the PCC made the decision to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Deanery Synod, prior to implementing the policy.

Each year our church safeguarding policies are reviewed and updated at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, they include - Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, this also covers our Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy. The Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

There have been a few changes over the last few months, including - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates are now required to be updated every three years.

Changes to safeguarding training requires all Pastoral Visitors, Safeguarding Officers and all PCC members to complete the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse certificate.

The Leadership Module (C2) is required for all Authorised Lay Ministers, Safeguarding Officers and Leads in all church bodies. Most church members who require safeguarding qualification are now in the process of updating their certificates, most of which are done online or via zoom. Certificates have to be renewed every 3 years.

Safeguarding is taken seriously at All Saints Church in the effort to make it as safe as possible for everyone.

**Jacky Spooner**  
**Safeguarding Officer**

## Children's Ministry

Following the long break we are once again running the 'Experience' events for pupils from St Peter's junior school and Clarkson Infants School. These events help to teach and explore the truths of our Christian faith.

Back in October we started with the Harvest Experience, this is the first time we have run this. It is based around nature's cycle of growth with 5 bases looking at different harvests from the ocean, garden, flock, grain and earth. A 6<sup>th</sup> base being Harvest Thanksgiving. Alongside each base the

children explored how the spirit of God produces growth in character, revealed in what the bible calls the 'Fruit of the Spirit'.

Next is the Easter Experience looking at the truths of the Easter story by following Jesus from the washing of the disciples' feet, along the journey to the cross, and finally his Resurrection.

During the summer term we plan to run the new 'Experience Church' module. This is based on learning about the local parish church and how Christians worship and practice their faith.

At the end of the year the Christmas Experience will help the children explore the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

At Easter we would also normally run CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) "The Case for the Missing Body". For initiative, the pupils have to investigate the case of Jesus' missing body from the tomb. Evidence is collected from the crime scene, along with fingerprinting, code breaking and testing blood samples. After evaluating the evidence the pupils have to solve the case – the result being the Resurrection of Christ.

It takes a lot of work to set up CSI and with the uncertainties of Covid still with us, the decision was taken not to restart the event this year; hopefully next year we will!

**Jacky Spooner**

**ALM for Children's Ministry**

## **Weekly Bible Study**

Our weekly Bible Study Group, which is led by our Rector Rev. Allan, recommenced in the Autumn following the easing of COVID Restrictions, after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. We started the term with a series of studies looking at the life of the Prophet Samuel, who also functioned as Israel's last Judge before the Monarchy. Currently then, working our way through 1 Samuel at the moment. Once we have finished studying Samuel, we are hoping to start a second series focussing on the life and deeds of Elijah – the first of the Prophets proper. Of course, new comers are welcomed to join us every Tuesday evening at church at 7.15pm to explore and learn more about God's Holy Word.

**Carrie Mills**

## **Bell Tower Captain's Report**

As we finish the 6th calendar since I was appointed Tower Captain the annual report for our Bell Tower has become the time to review the past year and then to look forward.

In the past year of COVID-19, most ringing activities have been somewhat improved compared to 2020. The COVID-19 relaxed restrictions meant that more routine ringing became allowable.

Since the late spring we have rung for Sunday church services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and some special services. Our Walsoken ringers now support the town church's ringing, before then ringing at Walsoken. Our Friday practices have resumed with average attendance at 10 ringers, but we have had seventeen!

During the last year, our bells maintenance continued. During our routine bell maintenance, in 2020 it was noted that the clapper bearing on our tenor (our largest bell) needed to be re-bushed. This had been quoted for and as soon as the 'essential travel only' directive from the government was lifted, we took it to the bell founder for repair. The repair has been made and the clapper refitted. We also ordered a new spare rope.

In the summer of 2022, we must re-oil the woodwork up in the belfry. This should be done every 5-years. The materials don't cost much, but it is a day's work for 6 people. In mid-summer the belfry woodwork is dry and thirsty which is perfect for the application of Danish oil. This protects the woodwork from the elements as, essentially, the belfry woodwork is open to the outside elements!

During 2021 Walsoken undertook to train new ringers from other towers. Not all towers feel confident, or competent to teach bell handling. This help, offered by All Saints' church, increases Walsoken towers' standing in the local district. In 2021 we had learners come to us from Leverington, Wisbech St. Mary, Elm, Terrington St. Clements and Wisbech towers.

Looking forward into 2022, and assuming no more lockdowns or similar, we'll need to carry on rebuilding our tower's ringers.

As ringing has now resumed, I can see All Saints' Walsoken's ringing simulator being used more as those skilled in more complicated methods need to become re-accustomed to ringing. To increase the number of ringers in the local ringing District Jeanette and I plan to run a training session on 'teach the teacher' which will show other ringers how to teach bell handling.

**Bob Cox**  
**Tower Captain**

## **All Saints Band**

It is with great joy that I am able to report that the Walsoken Band is again enjoying putting together songs of praise. It was difficult to function just prior to lockdown, due to the failing health of our beloved pianist Brian Bennett. I was however able to resource a vast choice of backing tracks that meant we could continue to provide music in our family church services. A lot of these were a little bit more upbeat than we are used to hearing perhaps, but I believe these can contribute to a revival in church attendance by the younger generation.

Artist like Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Stuart Townsend to name a few, provide a dynamic alternative to traditional hymns. I would recommend you search the web for music performed by these and similar artists.

I am pleased to announce that we now have another pianist on board namely Chris Mills. Chris has on occasions played the organ, so he is well known to many. Swapping the organ for piano is working well and we are enjoying our practice sessions. We will be leading the hymns for Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday, which I hope the congregation will enjoy.

In the past I have invited the congregation to suggest music they would like to hear. We will try and accommodate. Until you hear our sounds in church once more, I wish you all well.

**Lee Newman**  
**All Saints Band**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

In 2021, it was the turn of our church, All Saints to host the WDP. It was due to take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, due to COVID still being a real issue, it had to be postponed. We were however able to eventually hold the service on 29th October. The theme for 2021 was “Building on Strong Foundations” and the service was prepared by the people of Vanuatu.

There was good support and attendance for the service from the Churches Together in Wisbech. A big thank you to all who came along and supported the service.

The Baptist Church in Wisbech will be hosting the next World Day of Prayer service 2022 on March 4th at 7pm, theme “I Know the Plans I Have for You.”

**Carrie Mills**

**WDP Church Representative**

## **Coffee Morning**

The Friday Coffee morning resumed in August 2021 after 17 months.

At first we were able to hold it in the refreshment area in the church and our numbers were higher than ever with over 30. Some were new and some old. As the weather got colder we lost some ardent coffee attendees till warmer weather arrives.

We have been meeting in the Tom Walters room now for some weeks and our attendance has fluctuated still. Some of our regulars are not able to attend anymore and have become housebound after the lockdown.

However we still keep in contact with them all and deliver regular meals to them. We still have the raffle nobody wants to win and our bric-a-brac stall.

We have also resumed our meals out and have been to Dewey's in Wisbech for a tasty meal and over 25 of us enjoy this time of fellowship. We will continue with our fortnightly coffee mornings and hope our numbers will get back to pre-pandemic times soon.

**Janice and Trevor Dyke**

**Walsoken Parochial Church Council**  
**Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**  
**General Account**

(Community & Business Premium Account)  
(Barclays Bank PLC)  
(12, Old Market, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1NN)

**Receipts and Payments Account – Unrestricted Fund**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Incoming Resources from Donors</b>		
Planned Giving – Weekly Envelopes	4227.70	4477.00
Planned Giving – Annual and Monthly	11884.40	10664.40
Open Plate	4014.90	5667.60
Income Tax recovered – Gift Aid	6665.51	4531.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,792.51</b>	<b>25,340.50</b>
<b>Other Voluntary Resources</b>		
Donations	3184.80	1430.46
Tea/Coffee donations	94.81	40.05
Fund Raising	3886.41	4543.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,166.02</b>	<b>6,014.05</b>
<b>Bank Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20.20</b>
		<b>3.58</b>
<b>Baptism, Weddings and Funerals</b>		
Fees	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,822.00</b>
		<b>2,641.00</b>
<b>Church Donation Boxes</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>141.30</b>
		<b>82.05</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Coffee mornings	26.08	62.18
Memorial Book Entries/Chair	30.00	80.00
Meeting Room	50.00	140.00
Bells		381.50
Roof Alarm System		3500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.08</b>	<b>4163.68</b>
Church Income	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,048.11</b>
		<b>38,244.86</b>
Balance brought forward	9448.65	10818.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>£46,496.76</b>	<b>£49,063.57</b>

# Walsoken Parochial Church Council

## Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 General Account

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	2020	2021
<b>Activities relating to the work of the Church</b>		
Parish Share	17592.46	20500.00
Fuel, Electric and Water	2596.35	2519.40
Church Running Expenses	1533.29	1355.39
Rector's Expenses	1594.31	1618.88
Fund Raising Activities	362.00	120.00
Donations	50.00	50.00
Kitchen Area/Catering	00	48.00
Rectory Telephone	993.06	1039.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,721.47</b>	<b>27,250.75</b>
<b>Church Management and Administration</b>		
Stationery, postage, books etc	172.85	280.71
Subscriptions and Fees	624.98	401.66
Visiting Clergy	60.00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>857.83</b>	<b>682.37</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Bells	00	162.00
Parish Magazine	312.00	266.00
Insurance	4970.10	5124.61
Church Cleaning	675.77	540.00
Roof Alarm system	00	3500.00
Web Site	175.00	175.00
Maintenance	3966.76	1750.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,099.63</b>	<b>11,517.94</b>
Church expenditure	35678.93	39451.06
Carry forward	10818.71	9580.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>£46,497.64</b>	<b>£49,031.52</b>

# Walsoken Parochial Church Council

## Financial Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

<b>General Investment</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
(Central Board of Finance London)		
Balance brought forward	3626.51	3626.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,626.51</b>	<b>£3,626.51</b>

### **Restricted Funds**

(Community & Business Premium Accounts  
Barclays Bank PLC)

### **Fabric Fund**

Balance brought forward	1148.11	1148.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,148.11</b>	<b>£1,148.11</b>

### **F.S. Young's Legacy**

Interest	.23	.04
Balance forward	295.18	295.41
Balance carry forward	295.41	295.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>£295.41</b>	<b>£295.45</b>

### **Bell Fund**

Brought forward	.19	.19
Balance carry forward	.19	.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.19</b>	<b>£0.19</b>

### **(Central Board of Finance)**

#### **Fabric Fund**

Balance brought forward	1.39	1.39
Carry forward	1.39	1.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.39</b>	<b>£1.39</b>

# Walsoken Parochial Church Council

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

### MONETARY ASSETS

	2020	2021
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Account (Barclays)	10,81871	9,580.46
General Investment (CB of F)	3,626.51	3,626.51
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Fabric Account (Barclays)	1,148.11	1,148.11
F.S. Young Legacy (Barclays)	295.41	295.45
Bell Fund (Barclays)	0.19	0.19
Fabric Fund (CB of F)	1.39	1.39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£15,888.93</b>	<b>£14,652.11</b>

### **Other monetary assets-General Fund - Unrestricted**

Gift Aid Tax Refunds for period October – December 1021

### **ASSETS**

Church Furnishings – Inventory Assets vested in the Churchwardens on special trust.

Printer and Binder	7 Microphones and 1 Stand
Laser Printer	7 Music Stands
Laptop and software	2 Radio Microphone Systems
Digital Projector and Screen	Vacuum Cleaner
CD Music System and PA System	CCTV Security system
Electric Piano and Accessories	Lawn Mower
Amplifier Loop System	Set of Handbells
Coin Sorter	Bingo Machine.
Radio Cassette	Printer for Magazine etc.
Amplifier, 2 Speakers and Stands	2 Amplifier/Speakers
Wheelchair	

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Air Cubes  
Four in a Row  
Chime Bars Note Set  
Puppet  
Earth Ball