

# St Nicholas Church, Great Wilbraham

*Working together to be a Christian Community of Worship, Welcome and Care*

## **Deanery of Fordham and Quy, Diocese of Ely Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements For the year ended 31st December 2019**



### **Parochial Church Council 2019**

The following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Revd Alice Goodman

Assistant curate: Father Miles Pateman

Licensed Lay Minister: Steve Mashford

Churchwarden: Lorna Carr

Treasurer: Jeremy Barnett

PCC Secretary: Lorna Carr

Representative on the Deanery Synod: Steve Mashford

Elected members: Gillian Humphrey, Allan Painter, Helen Clarke,  
Judy Hanmer, John Beadsmoore

## BACKGROUND

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for promoting the whole mission of the Anglican Church within the Parish of Great Wilbraham, encompassing all pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects of the work of the Church. It is part of a Plurality with St Vigor's, Fulbourn, St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham and St George's, Six Mile Bottom. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the church building and churchyard area.

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC meets at least 4 times a year but also operates through a number of groups or committees, which meet as required during the year, often as a result of issues raised at PCC meetings. These include the Standing Committee, (the only committee required by law with the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC), a Fabric Committee, which is working together to organise structural repairs and general maintenance, and a Worship Group which works with Steve Mashford to run the Come and Join services. Committee reports are included in the Appendices

## Update

### Expanding the work of the church.

St. Nicholas' Church is alive, well and growing in Great Wilbraham.



Revd Alice Goodman continues as our vicar and we have been fortunate to now have an assistant curate, Father Miles Pateman, whose youth and great sense of humour is much appreciated. He shares services and supports Alice in many ways. Steve Mashford, our Licensed Lay Minister, had to rest for a few months due to ill health but is gradually taking back some of his previous duties. We also welcomed Rex Buckley, a retired Vicar who recently moved to the area and together they work hard to cover the many responsibilities required by the four parishes across the benefice.

We continue to be grateful to the new facilities and make use of them whenever we can. Coffee and Chat Wednesdays during August continued last summer in the church with coffee and cake from 10 -12am and children's activities so all ages would feel welcome. Wednesday Church, the service for parents, carers and children, with Bible stories, activities and singing has continued and been very popular with up to 35 people attending. Bells ring out to call people to church and celebrate special occasions. St. Nicholas' church is often used by visiting bands of ringers and hosts social events. Although ringers are not always church goers, the bells greatly add to church life. There will be more details of this in the bell ringers report in the appendices.



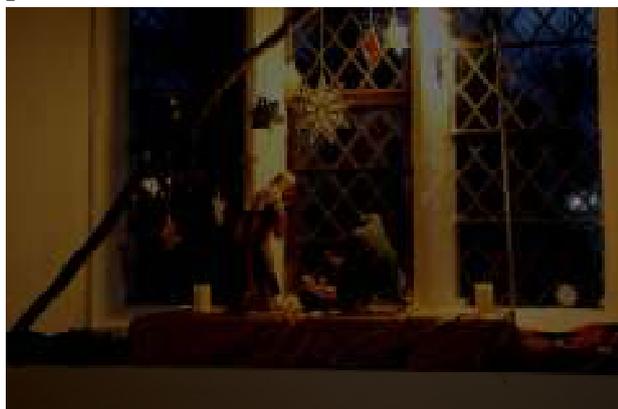


We have also benefitted from the presence of our Ordinand, Funmilayo Vaughan, Edwin Wilton- Morgan, and David Bagnall, who all bring something new and fresh to the parishes.

With our former parish assistant, Bethan Howe, getting married and moving away to train to be a vicar over the summer, we once again found ourselves searching for a replacement. The post of parish assistant allows for flexibility so under the guidance of Alice, whoever takes on the position can, to some

extent, let their particular strengths expand the role. We have been truly blessed to have found Rob Hawkins, a Cambridge graduate and PhD student, with a deep interest in theology. He quickly broadened the work of the benefice by his passion for the environment and the care of those in need.

St. Nicholas' took part in the first Wilbrahams' Winter Wonder Walk. During Advent 2019 a different house, church, or business had a window display for walkers to visit. This was organised by the school PTFA in aid of Jimmy's Night Shelter. Mulled wine was served at church with children's activities and a nativity scene built in the church porch.



The service pattern continues with a 9.30am Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month, with Come and Join on the first Sunday.

Morning Worship, following the Iona Service book, is still held in the church every Wednesday at 9.20am. and is joined now by Wednesday church from 3.15pm to about 4.30pm term time. We continue to be grateful to Gill Humphrey who plays the organ or

piano for all our services – often accompanied by Nigel Start on guitar. Joint benefice services are held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at St. George's Church, Six Mile Bottom. Home communion is available and our small team of DBS checked people also offer just a visit for a chat and work with the "Welbrahams" village group to help make Great and Little Wilbraham caring communities to live in.

Harvest Festival was celebrated on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October with a joint Great/ Little Wilbraham Songs of Praise service, held at St. Nicholas'. This benefitted from The Community Choir, run by Gill Humphrey, and the delicious refreshments served afterwards were enjoyed by all. Great and Little Wilbraham churches are actively working together to maintain church attendance in both villages and we continue to believe, passionately, that both churches have an important role to play in the life of each village. Christmas was celebrated with Six Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve; the candlelit church was overflowing and those there enjoyed being joined by the community choir.

The donations from this service were divided between The Children's Society and the church. A traditional service of Holy Communion was well attended on Christmas Day. Close links with Great Wilbraham School have been maintained with regular visits from Alice and Rob. Father Miles Patemen has taken over as one of the foundation governors and Tim Brown continues as the Archdeacon's appointed governor.

### **Churchyard**

The church yard is still being maintained by a group of volunteers organised by Tony Ryan. We are especially grateful to Stan and Vivien Wilson who maintain the area south of the church with care and dedication as well as clearing large areas of the church yard of leaves and broken branches. Areas of longer grass were left to encourage more wildlife. There is now only one burial plot remaining in addition to the cremation spaces. The church yard is visited frequently, as can be seen by the fresh flowers left regularly; over 100 graves had wreaths or flowers placed on them again at Christmas.

We still have the church open on a daily basis from 9am to about 6pm thanks to a small team of volunteers. We know this is appreciated by comments in the visitor's book. Cleaning the church and ensuring there are flowers present, continues to be organised on a rota basis by volunteers for which we are very grateful.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020/21**

St. Nicholas' church is looking forward to serving the community of Great Wilbraham in whatever way it can to spread the Christian ethos of loving God and loving your neighbour as yourself. This year we are hoping to be able to make the church building a more welcoming space by putting in an efficient heating system. Our fabric committee has been working hard exploring options and visiting churches with new heating systems.

As we prepare this report the country, in fact the world, is in the grips of the Coronavirus. Businesses, except essential services, shops, schools and indeed churches, are closed and people asked to stay at home. This must be an unprecedented position, certainly in living memory. As a church community in Great Wilbraham and across the benefice of Fulbourn, we are trying to respond to the challenge of caring for those, through age or health issues, who are not allowed to go out for any reason, by collecting medicines, shopping or just a friendly chat on the phone. Alice, Miles and Rob are producing on line material for our Sunday school and Wednesday Church. At present we do not know when the situation will change but it is likely to be nearing the end of 2020 before life returns to normal. We continue to pray and maintain life as a community of worship, welcome and prayer.

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults**

As a benefice we have adopted a new policy showing we are committed to valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults. This includes safe recruitment, supervision, training and DBS checks where applicable.

This policy is available in Twelve and each church.

#### **Parish Assistant**

Rob (Parish Assistant) has been working with us since September and very much enjoys his work in the Wilbrahams. He looks forward to 'Wee Worship' each Wednesday morning and the chance to pray together. Wednesday Church, which he leads, is thriving,

with around 15 children often in attendance. A particular highlight was the Christmas nativity, when, thanks to Lorna and the help of the other volunteers, the church porch became a stable complete with hay bales and manger. The children enjoy an hour of craft, snacks, singing, storytelling and praying together every week in term time.

At Great Wilbraham School Rob enjoys leading Happy Sad Club, a group for reflection on worries and joys where children can air things in a trusting and confidential space. He's also enjoyed the opportunity to take some assemblies and a school Christingle service.

The Wilbrahams continue to provide invaluable support to 'Twelve', the Parish Centre in Fulbourn. Rob has launched a 'plastic-free' initiative, 'Twelve Green Bottles', serving the villages with refills of household liquids and eco friendly products. It's been nice to see so many more people in Twelve as a result. As always, these initiatives create work for the Twelve volunteers and so we are particularly grateful to them for their generosity and good humour this year!

### **Come and join....**

In September we celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> birthday of our 'Come and join.....' Worship services they take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at St Nicholas Great Wilbraham at 9.30. This year we have continued with a number of 'Breakfast Church' services using the kitchen facilities during the worship.

'Come and join....' are services of the word that include sketches, dramatized Bible readings and a talk that includes visual displays. The music is a blend of worship songs and traditional hymns. We have celebrated 'Come and join....' The Dramatic Release, Big Brekkie for Christian Aid, Go Tell Everyone, The Wheels of Harvest, and 'God's hospitality' are a few of the subjects used. The introduction last year of discussion in small groups after the talk is a great success enabling us to talk about our 'Everyday Faith.' This service is led by Steve Mashford our Licensed Lay Minister and all are welcome to 'Come and join' our worship on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30.

### **Deanery Synod**

With our Rural Dean Sue Giles, this year we have had some excellent speakers to lead our discussions. In June at Reach Dr Stephen Cherry, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, who is a writer and speaker on Christian spirituality and practical theology. He shared with us a selection of ideas from his latest book 'God Curious' and invited us to think about some of the eternal questions that are present in every generation.

At a meeting at Cheveley in November the guest speaker was Geoffrey Hunter, DAC secretary and Head of Church Buildings and Pastoral Department in the Diocese. He came to give an illustrated talk about the Ely REACH project (Reimagining Churches as Community Assets for the Common Good). This project is running for three years. The three key things for churches to think about, 1. Work out what they could do, 2. Do it, 3. Tell everyone about it. Further information about this project can be found

[www.reachely.org](http://www.reachely.org).

We look forward to where God will lead us in the coming year and to include what are we celebrating, what are our challenges and what are our hopes, in our vision from now to 2025 in our Deanery and Diocese.

## Twelve

Based in Fulbourn, Twelve continues to be an excellent centre for administration,



communication and outreach across the benefice and provides office space for our parish assistant. In addition, it is a centre for community communication, displaying posters and flyers for future events. Twelve hosts numerous community events as well as providing space for joint church meetings and groups. Alice holds her vestry hour here on Saturday mornings from 10-11 o'clock. The centre is manned

by volunteers and sells greetings cards, second-hand books and jigsaws in addition to running the Twelve Green Bottle plastic reducing scheme. Opening times: Monday 1.30-4.30pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm, Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

## Facts and figures 2019

In accordance with Church of England procedures, the Electoral Roll is reconstituted every six years; the most recent being in March 2019. Following the subsequent annual review in March 2020, there are 36 people on the St Nicholas Electoral Roll.

The average attendance at the Sunday morning services held at St Nicholas was 20 adults and 2 children and young people. At the mid-week service at 9.15am on Wednesday mornings on average 3 people attend. Our Wednesday after school service is attended by 23 children and adults, on average

The Easter Day communion service was attended by 54 adults and 12 children. 210 adults and children attended the Christmas Eve and Morning services.

During the year there were four wedding, and two funerals and thanksgiving services. Four services were held for Great Wilbraham Primary School.

The main points on the church finances in 2019, which are detailed in the Annual Accounts, are:

- We started the year with General Funds of £649 and ended with £220.
- We are grateful to church members for their financial support. £9,969 was donated in the year including Gift Aid tax recoveries. In addition, collections totalled £2,082. Fees from weddings and funerals totalled £3,781 of which £1,111 was paid on to the Diocese.
- We balanced our General Funds by using £3,000 from the income from our investment property.
- We paid the Ministry Share of £10,908, insurance of £2,707, the joint expenses due to St Vigor's Fulbourn of £1,445 and other costs totalling £3,795.
- During the year we supported: Jimmy's Night Shelter £390, Cambridge Churches Homeless Project £300, Water Aid £300, and the Children's Society £200. Special collections were taken for Christian Aid £127, Street Child £155, Save the Children £45 and Lupus UK £66.

In addition to monetary support, donations of food and household items were given to Jimmy's Night Shelter.

- A total of £20,402 was spent on repairs and refurbishments reflecting the costs of the items summarised in the Fabric Committee report. This was financed by a combination of grants from the St Nicholas Trust, donations, and income from the investment property and other investments.

- At 31 December 2019, we held funds of £14,033 in our Building Fund. In addition, we held £2,116 in trust for the Bell Ringers Fund.

### **Investment property-5 Benstead End, Great Wilbraham**

One tenant has rented the investment property throughout the year producing rent of £18,720. The total costs in the year were £2,402. We continue to be grateful to Graham Clarke for his management of the property, free of charge, throughout the year.

### **2020 Annual Report of the Fabric Committee for St. Nicholas, Great Wilbraham from John Beadsmoore, Chair of the Fabric Committee**

- **Window Nave left hand side of the porch.** Work completed by Spectrum Stone at a total cost of £21,600. £15,000 paid by St Nicholas Trust.
- **Re rendering of North Transept outer wall.** Work completed by George Collin and Sons (Ernie Warren) at a cost of £9,760 plus VAT; paid for by the St Nicholas Trust.
- **Harness for ascending the tower.** The original harness was provided and inspected by Steadfast. Discussions with this company have always been difficult and the annual inspection expensive. We decided to “cut our losses” and replaced the harness with one from Anglia Handling Services of Biggleswade and enter into an annual inspection agreement; total cost £278 plus VAT.
- **Bells.** We have entered into an annual inspection contract with Taylors of Loughborough starting October 2019 at a cost of £312.
- **Reface and decorate the South facing Internal Nave Wall and Paint the South Transept Door.** Work completed by George Collin and Sons (Ernie Warren) at a cost of £2,336 plus VAT
- **Damp in the church.** This shows itself particularly in the Tower, the area of the new Toilet and Kitchen and the south facing wall of the nave. We believe a major factor is the build up of earth on the outside of these walls so that the ground level is above the internal floor level. A primary solution could be the installation of a “French Drain”. We have undertaken a ground level survey done by SG Geomatics at cost of £545 plus VAT so we now know precisely what has to be done! It is quite a big job with the excavation, archaeology supervision, repointing the exposed wall and then building the French Drain. There seems to be no appetite to undertake this work. I think a summit meeting with the architect is needed to decide the way forward and agree who is responsible for what.
- **Heating** This has been initiated by Lorna and has now become the major project. Ron Burge managed the successful installation of St Johns’ heating system using a company called Christopher Dunphy Ecclesiastical Ltd; He introduced us to Chris Dunphy. We considered two “hot water based” systems one using LPG as the energy source (quoted cost £53,450 plus VAT); the other using ground source heat pumps (quoted cost from another company A Alternative of £142,773.10 plus VAT). LPG is oil based and there would be a major security problem with locating the storage tank. The boiler would have to be in the vestry and unlike St Johns all the north side of our Church, is very exposed.

We then considered the much cleaner electricity option using directly heated convection heaters. Chris Dunphy quoted £31,150 plus VAT for such a scheme, which based on discussion with the St Nicholas Trust is affordable. At the recommendation of Chris Dunphy, the whole Fabric Committee visited All Saints Church, Emberton near Olney in Buckinghamshire. We were shown round their beautiful Church by Sheila Watts, Church Warden and Warwick Clarke, Treasurer and Projects Leader. They spoke very highly of Chris Dunphy both as a person and as a heating engineer as well as his staff. They are delighted with their Electricity powered heating although it was not cheap, about £42,000. They accept the heating bill is now higher but its success means the Church is used more! A feature of their new system was the efforts they had taken to prevent drafts with curtains and a very attractive porch area. The door in the chancel of St Nicholas is very drafty but this could be significantly reduced by filler in the wood and a curtain. The main door in the Nave is also very cold and drafty; one option could be an outer door similar to the new attractive door in St John's LW, although this cost over £10,000.

Throughout these discussions we have been in contact with UK Power to establish whether the Church wiring has the capacity for this electric heating. For some time, we understood we were OK, but then we were visited again by UK Power who considered we have to upgrade our power supply and quoted £6,000 to do this work. We have a senior manager from UK Power living in the village and Allan Painter and I visited him. This has resulted in them monitoring our power usage over a period of time since there might be a cheaper alternative available. It will be some time before we know the results of this work. Steve Drake is a subcontractor to UK Power and is anxious we talk to him once we have the revised proposal and cost.

- **Health & Safety.** Following the excellent survey prepared by Sarah Fordham, we are steadily completing the issues identified and recording and completing others as and when they arrive.
- **Community Service.** Through Ron Burge, I was approached by people from Community Payback who supervise people who have been given work in the community instead of a custodial sentence. They suggested helping us with either moving the large pile of soil from digging graves or with the French Drain. Although free of charge the rules and regulations are onerous and our supervisory time would be needed. I proposed we should park this initiative for the time being

### **Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers - Annual Report - 2019-2020**

The ringers of the Tower at St Nicholas continue to make great strides with their ringing. We again rang for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas this year and we are now looking towards commemorating VE-Day on the 8th May. Individually we are meeting with success with further certificates for ringing being award - three over the year. Lastly, we are continuing to forge links with neighbouring towers with regular attendance from ringers from Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and Brinkley (and even as far as afield as Duxford) at our practice evenings.

## The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust Chairman's Report for 2019/20

The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust is currently made up by four local trustees (with one vacancy), the incumbent vicar, a co-opted member from the village, plus two members of the PCC (Warden & Treasurer) whom attend by special invitation. The Trust's purpose is to "raise money for the preservation repair maintenance improvement upkeep beautification and restoration of the church and of any monument fitting fixture stained glass organ or bell in the church but excluding the church yard adjoining the church....and the monies shall be given to the PCC to spend on works specified by the trustees...".

Over the past twelve months, the Trust has ring fenced £10,000 towards the cost of re-rendering the external north face of the transept wall, which has been recommended as an urgent requirement by the church's architect in his quinquennial report (scheduled to be re-surveyed in November 2020).

The main fundraising activity was an Open Gardens event in June, which raised in excess of £1,500; added to which there are regular contributors who make Gift Aid donations to the Trust either monthly, quarterly or annually.

Since November 2017 over £120,000 has been raised for the Legacy Donation Fund, and the target for this fund remains at £1 million (ALL the capital must be protected in perpetuity), to produce a target income of £50,000 pa. To date, the income generated by the Legacy Fund has amounted to £8,750.33. For further information on how to contribute most efficiently, please contact our treasurer, Tony Ryan, whose contact details may be found on our new website <https://stnt.gtwilbraham.net/>.

Graham Clarke, Chair of the St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust