

## 2020 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Church Street Watford Northamptonshire NN6 7UR

St Peter and St Paul's Church is part of Brixworth Deanery in the Diocese of Peterborough (Church of England).

Correspondence address: The Vicarage, 10 Hall Drive, Long Buckby, Northants NN6 7QU.

Benefice website: [www.stlawrences.org.uk](http://www.stlawrences.org.uk); Watford Church heritage website: <http://watfordvillagechurch.btck.co.uk/>

### Aim and purposes.

St Peter and St Paul Watford Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of 'cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Graham Collingridge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.'

### Objectives and activities

These include:

- ✠ Worship: the plan for monthly worship was not possible due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of churches. A Thanksgiving Service for repairs to the church building was held on 23rd February 2020. The final service in the church before "Lock-Down" was Holy Communion on 9th March before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. A carol service was held in churchyard on 20th December with recorded music, congregation "socially distanced", and with refreshments served afterwards. Approximately forty adults and five children attended.
- ✠ Weekly online services for the whole Benefice have been held from the end of March 2020 and continue. On 13th September, the online Benefice service commemorated the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers leaving for America. Reference was made to Thomas Rogers and Alice Cosgrove, and their son Joseph, former residents of Watford, and of Thomas' and Joseph's journey on the Mayflower. (The Vicar also gave an interview to Martin Heath, Radio Northampton, about the anniversary and the Watford connection). Harvest Festival was held online, and a Remembrance Sunday Service was broadcast from St Lawrence, with Cllr Kevin Cox and Dan White participating and taking a wreath back to Watford Churchyard.
- ✠ We participate in the annual 'Ride and Stride' for the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. Locally four people completed a sponsored walk to Ashby St Ledger and raised £120 (£60 for the church).
- ✠ The Church was open daily 10 am-4 pm January – March, and then closed until 22nd November. Since then it has been open on Sundays and Wednesdays, 10 am – 4 pm (the gap due to COVID restrictions).
- ✠ The Classic Car event planned by Friends of the church for June 2020 was postponed (to 27th June 2021) (although a "Virtual Classic" event was held online. The Northampton Male Voice choir concert has been rescheduled for 10th July 2021.

### Achievements and performance 2020

The PCC met once, on 20th January, and the APCM was held on 9th March. Members of PCC have also attended meetings with other PCC standing committees.

The following is a summary of what was achieved during 2020:

- † Care of church building: Daily external and weekly internal church building checks (Linda Ariss); Oak Screen delivered (February); Repairs to pews ongoing (Ken Brand); COVID Risk Assessment 6th August; roof alarm service (7th August); Fire Inspection (17th August); Response to roof alarm alert (Linda Ariss 21st August); Final Certificate Inspection for roof and other repairs (12th November); deep clean by church and village volunteers (November).
- † Opening Church: (Andrea Childs, Linda Ariss, Ken Brand)
- † Watfordian (village newsletter) – three issues - providing updates on church and village life (Linda Ariss)
- † 'Friends of Watford Church' (focus on fundraising, links with the community, and to help with upkeep of the Church) met on 28th January, 10th March; and there was a joint meeting of Friends and church members on 17th November to plan the carol service.
- † Website maintained (Geoff Dent); visitor information booklets including "400 Years Ago: Two of Watford's Own sailed on the Mayflower"; and research, print and production of a Church Guidebook (Linda Ariss – laminated/wipe clean copies in the church).

The PCC would like to thank all those who give of their time so freely to support the church – church members, and also others who value its role in the life of the community. We are particularly thankful to Linda Ariss, Ken Brand, Janine Brooks (Friends), Andrea Childs, and Sheila Sikes (flowers). The PCC would also like to record its thanks to Chris Banks and other members of St Lawrence for supporting the whole Benefice during 2020. We are also thankful to Don Bird who stood down this year as Independent Examiner for health reasons after many years of faithful service.

## **Financial review (David Hiam)**

The accounts for 2020 accompany this report. The Parish Share for 2020 was £4,566, and remains so for 2021 (Benefice Share £72,359). Reserves policy: We will never voluntarily incur expenditure to bring the free reserves of the Church below the projected six months running costs (including the parish share).

## **The PCC: Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Charity with excepted status and does not need a Charity number. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In 2019 the membership of the PCC consisted of the Vicar, churchwardens (but none were elected), and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

## **The Benefice**

St Peter and St Paul Watford is part of the United Benefice of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick. A ministry team of Vicar, Reader and retired minister from across the Benefice have met weekly to plan services. Meetings of Standing Committees of all four parishes have met occasionally to consider matters of common interest e.g. responses to the pandemic.

## **PCC members**

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

### **Ex Officio members:**

Vicar: The Reverend Graham Collingridge (Chairman)  
Wardens: None

### **Elected members during 2020:**

Bernadette Frost:	2018 - 2021
Edward Frost:	2018 - 2021
David Hiam (Treasurer, Vice chair)	2019 - 2022
Gill Bigley:	2019 - 2022
David Evans:	2017 - 2020
Joan Cockerill:	2020- 2023
Virginia Penney:	2020 - 2023

Sandra Russell (Secretary and Deanery Synod representative) 2020-2023

Standing Committee: Revd Graham Collingridge, David Hiam.

The PCC can have up to 6 members, elected for three years, and 1 Deanery Synod Member elected for three years. There will be 2 vacancies at the 2021 meeting; and 2 vacancies for church wardens. We can also co-opt up to two additional members.

Non-elected officer: Rebecca Hiam (Electoral Roll)

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Chris Banks (St Lawrence Long Buckby); Sarah Cooper (St Lawrence) from January 2021.

There were 15 Members on the electoral Roll on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, of whom 5 were residents.

This Report was approved by the PCC on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



Reverend Graham Collingridge (PCC Chairman) *on behalf of the PCC.*