

# St Peter's Levington

## Report for the Annual Parish Meeting; Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

The PCC, in co-operation with the Rector, has responsibility for promoting throughout the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical. In 2021 -2022 the Parish Parochial Council comprised eight people:

**Janet Stalker**, Vice Chair and Deanery Rep, **Margaret Angus**, Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer, **Elizabeth Courtauld**, Churchwarden, **Ian Angus**, Chairman of the Friends of St Peter's, **Ali Bailey**, Deanery Rep, **Rosanne Girling**, **Caroline Young** and **Peter Allan**, Treasurer.

The PCC met as a Working Party on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2021, the first face to face meeting since February 2020. During that period of lock down, business was conducted electronically, using e-mails. Face to face Working Party meetings were re-established followed by meetings in October and November 2021 and two in the Spring of 2022.

Our services during 2021 were somewhat compromised by the limitations enforced on all worshipping communities by the restrictions of Covid. Services were held fortnightly, rather than weekly and careful arrangements were put in place with regard to hand sanitising and mask wearing. No singing was permitted. Attendance was restricted to about 21 to keep people 2 metres apart. The Rector and the Curate provided written and recorded services and sermons and this continues. In addition, newsletters and music were also made available and all were circulated via e-mail or by post to those unable to attend services in church. This was a heavy burden for the clergy and ministry team, but the value of these to the worshipping community should not be under-estimated. Those who received the services by e-mail and post, were most appreciative and felt well supported. The number on the electoral roll numbered 33. There were weddings in April and May and a service of blessing and another wedding in August. There were no baptisms in 2021. Barrie Hawtin, the founder Chairman of the Friends was buried in the churchyard in March 2021 and Diana Hawtin, (who served as a Churchwarden), was buried in February 2022. There were two interments of ashes. Elizabeth Courtauld stepped down as a Churchwarden at the October 2021 meeting and Janet Stalker was elected as the Working Party's Vice Chair. After over 30 years of service, Rosanne Girling retired from the PCC in Spring 2022.

Church finances underwent considerable change in terms of their organisation. Computer accounting was introduced and on line banking established. VAT was reclaimed as well as Gift Aid. The parish share was paid in full in March 2021 and February 2022. Direct debits were encouraged in favour of the Church and the Friends.

Through the receipt of one large and unexpected legacy, (£36,000), St Peter's was able to make a significant contribution to the Benefice Fund, (£18,000), and this facilitated the appointment of a much needed part time self employed Rector's Administrator.

The average age of the worshipping congregation is high and very few children attend regular services. The church does make a considerable effort to engage with residents of are not church goers. A few village children participated on their bikes in the SHCT 'Ride and Stride' event in September and some younger children made decorations, hearts and stars, and wrote short prayers to hang on the branches of the Advent Tree. Every household, in the village received a copy of the Cof E's 'Heart of Christmas' booklet and details of Christmas services. Very many villagers contributed to a collection for the Salvation Army in Felixstowe which raised £4,075. The Salvation Army came to play Carols on the Village Field, which meant that about 80 people were able to attend an outdoor gathering on a still, moonlight evening. We were the only parish in the benefice able to hold a carol service last Christmas. For a second year a huge illuminated star was hauled up the West side of the church tower which could be seen across much of the village. It was

much admired by residents and visitors alike. St Peter's PCC tries hard to participate in the work of the benefice, deanery and diocese in promoting Christian outreach. The church supported the following charities during the year: Basic Life Felixstowe, FIND Ipswich, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, British Legion and Christian Aid. Christmas cards were sold to help individual parish funds within the benefice.

Emerging from Covid restrictions has meant that our service pattern has been altered. All the eight parishes in our benefice now have two services each month, one of Morning Prayer and the second a service of Holy Communion.

The church is well supported by 'The Friends of St Peter's', (a sub committee of the PCC), which takes responsibility for the care of the churchyard and the fabric of the church. A separate report has been submitted to reflect the work of the Friends.

Our Rector, The Revd. Canon Ian Wilson, and all members of the Ministry Team have played an active role in keeping worship alive and active in our parishes and we are grateful for their commitment to all the churches in the benefice. We were sorry to say farewell to our curate, The Revd. Sarah Jenkins, who moved away to be Rector of Combs and Finborough in October, 2021. Despite a relatively short period of time with us she made a very positive contribution to the life and work of the benefice.

Thanks are warmly expressed to all those who make the church an active place for worship and fellowship: those who arrange flowers, read the lessons, look after the HC vessels, lectern falls and altar linen, clean the building, mow the grass and generally keep everything looking well cared for and special thanks must go to our organist, Peter Bumstead, for playing beautiful music at our services.

Margaret Angus

Churchwarden

May 2022.