

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of North Wraxall for the Year Ended 31st Dec 2014

Background

The parish of North Wraxall comprises five hamlets, North Wraxall, Ford, Upper Wraxall, Mountain Bower and The Shoe, situated to the west of Chippenham in the Chippenham Deanery, in the Malmesbury Archdeaconry of the Diocese of Bristol. The parish church of St James the Great is situated in that part of North Wraxall known to older inhabitants of the parish as Lower North Wraxall. St John's Church at Ford was made redundant and was finally sold in 1999. The churchyard continues to be used for burials.

In January 2006 the Parish became part of the By Brook Benefice and since then has been supported by the By Brook team.

The Rev'd Jonathan Philpott is Priest in charge.

The churchwardens are part of the By Brook Benefice council – which meets regularly and where decisions are made concerning the whole benefice.

Administrative Information

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commissioners.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2014 until the end of that year are:

Priest in Charge: *Rev. Jonathan Philpott*
 Rev. Gillian Parkin in the chair whenever possible

Church Warden: Anne Godwin

.Elected Members : Guy Hollis Treasurer
 Heather Maclean
 Dave Allen
 Debbie Clutterbuck Secretary

There continues to be no covenant secretary for the parish,

The Electoral Roll Officer is Anne Godwin.

There is no representative from this parish on the Deanery Synod – reports come via the Benefice

The Rev'd Jonathan Philpott has a non stipendary team vicar the Rev. Sarah Evans, and a non stipendary priest Rev. Velma Oxley, Velma will unfortunately be leaving in 2015 we still have several retired vicars and lay readers helping him. Gillian Parkin from Yatton Keynell, is now a non stipendary priest, and is in overall charge of the newly formed Western Cluster (North Wraxall, West Kington, Burton and Littleton Drew).

Moveable Church Furnishings

These assets are recognized but not specifically valued. They are listed in an inventory held by the Churchwardens. The inventory is checked annually by the Churchwardens, and all items listed are sighted. These have now all been photographed and photos added to the inventory.

The Archdeacon's temporary faculty to store the pews which had been brought from Ford church, and replace them with chairs was granted in April 2011, and a full faculty will need to be applied for .

An archdeacon's license was granted to move the font on a temporary basis in 2011 in order to make more room in Dane's Corner for other activities. This was moved to the corner close to the railings around the Methuen Chapel this has proved very successful and again, a permanent faculty will need to be applied for .

Organisation

When a decision is urgently required decisions can be taken at an 'Extraordinary Meeting'. Such decisions are reported to the PCC at the next PCC meeting. Sub-committees are sometimes appointed to deal with specific issues without involving the whole PCC, but report to the PCC. The incumbent, if there is one, sits on all sub-committees. A standing committee is required by law and stands for 1 year until the next APCM. The PCC can give them delegated responsibility to make decisions in an emergency, and authorise expenditure up to an agreed financial limit of £2000. Anyone from the PCC can call this meeting. Appointed to this years standing committee were , Anne Godwin, and Guy Hollis. Tim Osborne will continue to monitor the fabric even though he is no longer on the pcc.

The church is fitted with an audio loop system.

Correspondence

Correspondence usually addressed to the Incumbent can now be addressed to The Revd Jonathan Philpot at The Rectory, Yatton Keynell, Chippenham. General correspondence should be addressed to the Church warden Anne Godwin Middle Fosse Farm, North Wraxall, Chippenham,. Correspondence on financial affairs should be addressed to the Treasurer, Mr. Guy Hollis, The Grange, North Wraxall, Chippenham.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC, in cooperation with the Priest in Charge is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church in North Wraxall so as to provide a place of worship for all the inhabitants of the five hamlets forming the parish. A central aim is to encourage more people, especially young people, to come to church.

The PCC has continued to review the wider role of the Parish Church in the light of diocesan and national trends. A plan of action for the future has been formulated and is under constant review. This runs in parallel with Risk management and Health and Safety reviews.

Working Parties of a few volunteers from the congregation meet from time to time for general cleaning up in the churchyard and inside the church. Their efforts are very much

appreciated. A rota of flower arrangers keeps the interior of the church beautifully decorated throughout the year.

Church Attendance

There were 19 on the Electoral Roll at the A.G.M.

The 34'Normal Sunday Attendance' average for the year 2012 was 10 ; the 8 special service average was 56. the average attendance for the 42 services in 2014 , was 19.

Review of the year:

PCC

The full P.C.C met three times during the year, the A.P.C.M held in April was additional to this. The main topics considered during the year by the PCC were:

1. Planning for growth
- 2 Church mission/types of service
- 3 Church and churchyard management
4. We now have Sarah Evans as Team Vicar and Velma Oxley and Gillian Parkin as ordained , priests,both non- Stipendary.
- 5 We are still working towards a proper kitchen are in Danes corner.
- 6 We have now become a Benefice of ten Churces,bringing in Kington St.Micheal,and there has
been a lot of discussion about how the Benefice could be made to work.
It was agreed that three clusters would be created with North Wraxall in the Western cluster with
West Kington,Burton and Littleton Drew,having Rev.Gillian Parkin as our main Priest and our
first point of contact, Rev Jonathan Philpott still Priest in charge and there for us when necessary.
This reorganisation will begin after Christmas 2014
- 7 All Church inventory items have been photographed,as an extra security measure.
- 8 The Quinquennial inspection recommendations for several minor repairs have been completed.

The churchwarden attended the Benefice council meetings throughout the year .

Achievements and performance

Special activities

Total attendances on 'normal' Sundays have decreased, but there were slightly more services; we continue to have good attendances at special occasion services at Easter and Christmas and on special days such as The Carol Service, Harvest, United Benefice Service, and so on, We find that shorter less formal services with special themes tend to attract larger congregations, particularly if followed by refreshments.

The 'Take5 Community choir continues to meet weekly in the church. The choir very ably supports various special services regularly, and adds greatly to these services. The R.U.H. Choir joined them for a concert in July proceeds were shared between the Church and RUH, it was very successful and the Church was full.

Ministry

As always we are indebted to the ministry of all those who have taken part in our services throughout the year;

Forms of Worship

The benefice was helped by retired clergy from 'outside' who took services – Benefice service was held at varying churches throughout the Benefice, on the 4th sundays and on those months containing a fifth Sunday, we held a Celtic Communion service in the evenings. On third Sundays, we continued to have a Service of Holy Communion . 1st Sundays also see a communion and in 5 Sunday months it is the Book of Common Prayer version. 2nd Sundays continue to be TGFS.

Financial Review

The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The Financial Statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis. The PCC's vision of the future is carefully linked to financial planning.

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by Anne Godwin (Churchwarden) and Mr. Guy Hollis (PCC Treasurer)

Signed.....Chair

Signed.....PCC Treasurer