

Parish of St Lawrence, Long Buckby PCC Annual Report 2020/21

Church address: St Lawrence Church, Church Street, Long Buckby, NN6 7QH
Diocese: Peterborough (Church of England) **Deanery:** Brixworth
Correspondence address: The Vicarage, 10 Hall Drive, Long Buckby, NN6 7QU

Aims and purposes

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, the Reverend Graham Collingridge, in “*promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical*”. In addition to its Church building and closed churchyard (which has an area for the interment of cremated remains) the PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the School Rooms adjacent to the Church which are used for a range of community and church activities.

Objectives and activities

PCC has agreed the following objectives:

Faith in the village

We aim to engage with the village from a clear faith perspective, and in particular:

- † To employ a Children and Families Worker
- † To lead collective worship weekly in Long Buckby Infants and Junior Schools in partnership with ecumenical colleagues
- † To run a broad range of events in the church
- † To explore other strategies we can put into place to engage with the village
- † To explore ways to serve the village practically
- † To run Alpha courses or similar to support people in their exploration of Christian faith
- † To prepare an information pack for those new to the village

Faith in the World

Continue our support for Steve Poulson’s work in Honduras with street children, and Ann-Marie Wilson’s work combatting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), through the Church Mission Society (CMS)

Making our buildings more hospitable

In The Church: through provision of kitchen facilities; and in due course a toilet, and flexible and comfortable seating.

In the Schoolrooms: to care for /improve the fabric, and promote its use.

We recognise that following the COVID-19 pandemic we will need a fundamental review of our vision, values and objectives.

PCC Achievements and performance.

Matters considered by the PCC

From January to August 2020 the PCC met 5 times and dealt with the following items of business:

Training for the Welcome Team (Sidespeople)
The Vicar's Sabbatical
Pastoral Care during Covid
Cancellation of Church Services
Opening the Church building for Private Prayer
Worship streaming and the purchase of associated equipment

Since the delayed APCM in 2020 the PCC has met a further 6 times and has considered the following matters:

- Beneficewide services on Zoom and patterns of worship
- Suspension of Public Worship in Church
- Parish Giving Scheme
- Leading your Church into Growth
- Safeguarding
- Use of the Schoolrooms during Covid restrictions
- Christmas Tree Festival
- Churchyard Path
- Roof Alarm Contract
- Replacement Photocopier
- Governance Role and Responsibilities
- Budget for 2021
- The outstanding Quinquennial report
- Church Notice Boards

The PCC has also recently undertaken a full review of its Safeguarding Policy and complied with its duty under the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) particularly following the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse investigation into the Church of England report.

In January 2021 Sarah Cooper took over from Chris Banks as Safeguarding Officer.

There are currently 3 vacancies for PCC members and 2 vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives.

The PCC is required to have a Standing Committee which has met several times over the past months, mainly to consider Covid-19 related matters and also to review the organisational structure of the Church and individual responsibilities within the revised structure.

Ecumenical relationships

There are regular contacts with the Baptist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Churches to discuss mission and other areas of shared concern. This included the creation of a "Nativity Trail" around the Village for Christmas 2020 and an "Easter Trail" for Holy Week and the week following in 2021.

The regular pattern of weekly assemblies at the Infant and Junior Schools was interrupted by the Covid-19 restrictions and of course the closures of the Schools during the periods of National Lockdowns.

Financial Report

See separate report.

Financial Reserve Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a cash balance which equates to 3 months unrestricted payments. During 2020 this required the PCC to formally resolve to withhold the final quarterly payment of the Parish Share to ensure that adequate reserves were available.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all those volunteers who are actively involved in making our Church the lively and vibrant community which it is. This has been particularly important during the Pandemic and special thanks go to all those involved in ensuring the smooth running of weekly Zoom services and other meetings using Zoom including weekly prayer meetings and the Alpha course.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules 2020.(CRR)

The PCC is a Charity with excepted status and as such is not required to have a Charity Number.

The method of appointment/election of PCC members is set out in the CRR 2020 and at St Lawrence's the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, two Churchwardens, Reader (Ex-officio following a previous resolution at the APCM), nine members and three Deanery Synod representatives. The Churchwardens are elected annually at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the other PCC members and the Deanery Synod representatives are elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the Church. The PCC appoints a Secretary, Treasurer (from its membership) and a Safeguarding Officer (who need not be a member of the PCC).

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including approving an annual Budget and deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

All those who share in the life of the Church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The Parish is part of the United Benefice of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon with Winwick. It was established formally in 2011 although the parishes had worked together informally since 2002. A ministry team led by the Vicar meets regularly to plan services and a common scheme of readings and themes for preaching across the Benefice. A Joint Steering Group/Standing Committee has met twice to consider issues relating to the re-opening of Church buildings for Public Worship once the Lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Administrative Information

PCC members at the date on which this report was approved are:

Vicar: Rev'd Graham Collingridge (Chairman)
Wardens: Helen Baker and Richard Howard
Reader (Ex-officio): Richard Southey

Elected Members:	Richard Howard	2018-2021 (Elected Churchwarden in 2020)
	Graham Simpson	2018-2021
	Sue Plant	2018-2021
	Jane Smith	2019-2022

Barbara Allen	2019-2022 (Resigned January 2020)
Judith Leach	2020-2023
Mary Simpson	2020-2023
Malcolm Sniders	2020-2023

Deanery Synod: Chris Banks 2020-2023

There were three PCC vacancies and two Deanery Synod vacancies during 2020/21

For the APCM in 2021 there are three PCC vacancies for three years, two for two years and two Deanery Synod vacancies.

Chris Banks is the PCC Vice-Chair (and Assistant Treasurer)

The PCC Secretary is Malcolm Sniders and the PCC Treasurer is Jane Smith.

This report was adopted and approved by the PCC at its meeting held on 20th April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Reverend Graham Collingridge (PCC Chairman)

St Lawrence Church Churchwardens Report 2021

This report covers the year 2020.

The Terrier and Inventories were checked and updated in February 2020.

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church are all in good order and repair.

The following received an annual service :

- a) Fire Extinguishers
- b) Gas Boiler
- c) Tower Clock
- d) Roof Alarm
- e) Schoolroom Fire Alarm
- f) Schoolroom Emergency Lighting
- g) Organ
- h) Sound Desk and Projector

The schoolroom call points and Fire alarm were tested on a regular basis.

General

- 1. Routine maintenance and repairs were carried out throughout the year.
- 2. We still await the Quinquennial Report on the inspection carried out in April 2019. Richard chased up the architect on several occasions, the last being just before Christmas, but we still haven't received it.
- 3. 4 mice were caught in traps
- 4. We experience occasional leaks, but in various locations.
- 5. In March the clock striking mechanism was repaired.
- 6. Richard joined Helen as Churchwarden and we were elected at a virtual Annual Meeting on 23rd August 2020, Graham then Admitted the Churchwardens of the four parishes in the Benefice in a virtual Sunday Service.
- 7. In November the installation of broadband and a camera in church enabled remote Worship. Regular weekly Worship was held on Zoom/ YouTube from peoples homes, with occasional Communion Services and funerals being held in church when Covid Regulations allowed. Remembrance, Carol and Christmas Day services were broadcast from church with limited, socially distanced numbers inside church.

Special thanks go to our technical team of Richard Southey, Justin Baker, Jane Collingridge and Cath Maddison for making it all possible.

- 8. Our thanks also to Graham Simpson who took special responsibility for the fabric.
- 9. Covid Risk Assessments and cleaning were carried out before any activities in the Church building.

10. All special fund raising events were cancelled throughout the year, although Helen did manage to open the church for a successful Christmas Tree Festival and she was also responsible for managing the Schoolrooms, as well as checking the Terrier and Inventories.

Many thanks for your support

On behalf of our church family we would like to thank all those who give their time and talents to the service of St. Lawrence and its people. Those who participate in services, fill rotas, provide music, flowers, cleaning and all the supporting activities, as we strive to bring Jesus into everything we do and everywhere we are.

Helen Baker

Richard Howard

March 2021