

Some of our activities during the year recorded in pictures



The Big Walk
L-R Sheila (support team),
Rachel and Phillip



Some of the Guides who visited
the church tower in May



Charlotte carries out her
"serving" duties



Bell ringers on January 1st



Making Christingles



Sunday School Prize Giving



Pews removed in
Gt. Gransden



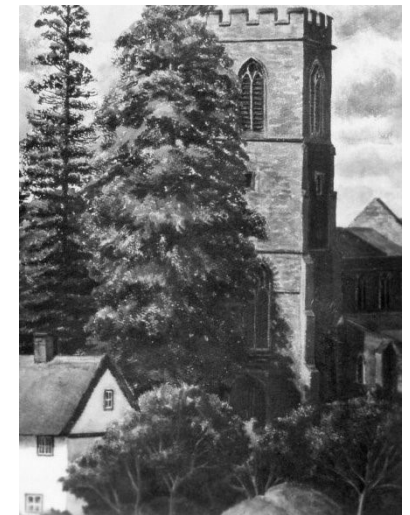
Victor's retirement

The Parish Churches of Great Gransden and Little Gransden

The Annual Report for 2015



Gt Gransden - Jan 2013



Lt Gransden - from a postcard

Ministry Team

Rev'd Catharine Furlong — Priest in Charge
Anthony Bevens — Licensed Lay Minister
Janice Brown — Authorised Lay Minister — Pastoral
Sheila George — Authorised Lay Minister — Music
Sheila Thompson — Authorised Lay Minister — Pastoral



1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

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Foundation Governor at Barnabas Oley School **Rachel Fogg**

At the end of 2015 the school had 140 children on roll in 5 classes, an increase of 10 pupils from the previous year. During 2015 whole school topics have been Inventors and Explorers, Mini-Beasts and Mega-Beasts and Food and Farming. Academic results in national tests and teacher assessments in the summer of 2015 were very good. The school also continues to encourage the arts – the choir took part in a national event in the Albert Hall in November and the end of year productions were at their usual high standard – and sports, with school teams participating in local sporting events. For a small school, the number of visits and activities that the children have the opportunity to take part in is impressive.

The school values its village links, working with the allotment society, the parish council, local farmers and the Revellers among others. The school is also collaborating on a wider stage: the Headteacher, Mrs Rebecca Smith, has been appointed a Regional Advisor for the Diocese of Ely, which is a secondment arrangement. This involves supporting 8 schools across the Diocese. As a feeder school for Comberton Village College the school is now part of the CB23 cluster which offers the opportunity for Peer to Peer meetings as well as support for particular curriculum areas and activities. Some school ideas, such as the Spelling Bee, are being taken up by other schools in the cluster.

The full Governing Body meets twice a term with Committee meetings (Curriculum, Finance, Personnel) happening in between the full meetings. Finances continue to be very tight and the school is grateful for the unflagging support of the PTA which this year has bought a new PA system as well as funding improvements to the Space Place - new kitchen area, flooring, storage - making contributions to school visits and regular allowances to each class. A number of the Governors are members of our congregations. New Governors this year include Julie Wisson from Abbotsley, who is the second Foundation Governor, and Iain Strath.

Revd Furlong continues to share in the life of the school by taking Assembly regularly and by supporting the staff and parents. She works with Mrs Smith on the planning of school services and takes as many as she can. A highlight of the school year is the annual Founder's Day service which celebrates the school's links with our church patron, Clare College.

The school always welcomes contact with members of the villages. Do get in touch with Mrs Smith if you would like to visit or can offer to help in class or during Golden Time once each half-term. The school website is always a good way to keep in touch with what is going on at: www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk.

Please pray for the school, its staff, pupils and families; for the Governors and their work and for the search for a new Clerk. and that the school may offer all its children a secure start in their educational life

The Gransdens' Mothers' Union Report Avril Bevens (Branch Leader)

In December 2015 there were 15 members. Under Betty Bates' leadership, we enjoyed an interesting year, beginning with a New Year Lunch at Waresley. Members attended a **Quiet day** at Ely. **Lady Day** was celebrated at St. Ives Church, followed by lunch supplied by members. The speaker, Peter Baker, an antiquarian, gave an interesting account of journeys made to visit religious connections. **The Wave of Prayer**, deferred until December, due to new District allocation, took the form of Evening Prayer, led by Tony Bevens LLM for members, at his home.

Speakers for the year: Tony Bevens LLM, presented a quiz to members on the beliefs and customs of Lent, and in November gave another fact finding Quiz on the Christmas story.

Beryl Waterson relayed her visit to the General meeting in Belfast, describing the changed scenes and divisions in Communities, particularly within schools. Her theme was Believing, Behaving and Belonging. Catherina Griffiths, appropriately dressed in Indian garments, gave an illustrated talk of her visit to India, as representative of the Cambridge Ecumenical Council of the Ely Diocese. Two representatives, Kath, a Community Outreach Support Worker, and Jocelyn, a Children's Support worker, spoke about the work of **The Women's Refuge**, which we support. They explained the abuse suffered by women and children, occurring across the strata of society. There are 242 Women's Refuge homes in Britain and 4 Male homes. Linda Page from Age UK gave a comprehensive and informative talk.

Four members attended the **Diocesan AGM** at St. Peter's in March. A Branch Harvest Service was led by Tony Bevens LLM and the **Deanery Service** was held at St. Barnabas Church, Huntingdon, led by Rev. Charles Dixon, followed by a Bring and share Lunch. Volunteers again supported the **Nursery tent facilities** at The Gransden show. Members were treated to a Mystery Bus Tour by kind invitation of Mick Ward, and ended the year with an enjoyable Deanery Christmas celebration at St. Neots.

Donations from the group to Appeals: Mothers' Day £60; Sudan Appeal £25. £2s for gift vouchers to the Women's Refuge and Littlehey Prison (children).

Knitting for Prem Baby Units and Women's Refuge donations

We are indebted to the kind villagers who support us. THANK YOU.

"When a believing person prays, great things happen."

Colossians 4:2 (Mothers' Union- Prayer is where the action is.)

Priest in Charge Report — The Rev'd Catharine Furlong

This past year saw the appointment of the first Woman Bishop in the Church of England, the Right Reverend Libby Lane as Bishop of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester. Libby took up the post from being a Parish Priest in St Peter's Hale in Greater Manchester, having been a curate in the Blackburn Diocese. She is at present Dean of Women's Ministry for the Diocese of Chester and Observer in the House of Bishop's representing the North West of England.

This is truly a sign of the Church valuing men and women at every level.

Indeed I would like to thank all those men and women, teenagers and children who have played their part here in the Churches over the past year; to Tony Bevens our Licensed Lay Minister, Sheila Thompson, Janice Brown and Sheila George our Authorised Lay Ministers for Pastoral Care and Music. Also to our Bishop's Officers – our Churchwarden Rachel Fogg and Assistant Wardens Iain Straith and Rob Chignell in Great Gransden and Nick Wareham and Sheila George in Little Gransden. We particularly thank Sheila George for her dedication and hard work as she steps down from Office after six years.

I am also conscious that much of the Mission and Ministry of the Church goes on in an unseen manner and I am grateful to all those who have assisted and witnessed and given their time in this way to building up the Church in this place.

Last year saw some parishioners visiting the religious Community of Taize in France. It was a special year for the Church there also celebrating the founding of the Community seventy – five years ago by the late Brother Roger. Taize Chants have come very much into our Liturgy and the Message of Reconciliation between Churches of different denominations coming together which is one of the main themes to be found coming from the Community.

It is a place that attracts young people between the ages of eighteen to thirty and links Prayer with Action. This is reflected on for when they return home; for example caring for the homeless and pensioners. Encouragement is given by the religious brothers to take on responsibilities and activities being aware of a sense of justice for all.

It is as we find the presence of Jesus Christ in the Church that we are able to sing and read the Bible Passages.

Let us think this coming year of all the other things we can do or one thing we would not normally do.

We pray to God to help us with this.

Great Gransden Parochial Church Council

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc. 41 High Street, St Neots
Independent Examiner: Mrs Hazel Pettit, 42 West Street, Great Gransden

Background

Great Gransden Parochial Church Council (PCC) works to promote the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish of Great Gransden and its parish church of St Bartholomew.

The parish is part of the united benefice of Great Gransden, Abbotsley, Little Gransden and Waresley.

The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

Membership of the PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year April 2015 to April 2016 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong

Church Warden: Mrs Rachel Fogg - Vice Chairperson
Assistant Church Wardens: Mr. Rob Chignell & Mr. Iain Strath

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs. Rachel Fogg
Mrs Helen Catmur

Elected Members: Mr Rob Chignell
Mr Andrew Fogg - Treasurer
Mr Mark Gostick
Mr Andy Greaves
Mr Iain Strath - Secretary
Mrs Jennifer Wilkinson

Ex Officio: Mr Tony Bevens - Licensed Lay Minister
Mr Donald Lester- Diocesan Synod Rep.

Sunday School Report — Teresa Miller (Leader)

Apart from during April, when work was taking place in the church, the Sunday School met every third Sunday throughout the year. The children have continued to be divided into two age groups, "Pebbles" (ages 3 to 7 - meeting in the choir vestry), and "Rocks" (ages 8 to 11) using the Ringing Floor. Only in August, when most children were away, did the children join together as one group.

Excluding August, the average attendance for the Pebbles group was 9 children, the range being from 6 to 15. For Rocks, the average was 7, ranging from 3 (half term) to 12.

The prize giving took place in July; 22 children received a book to reward their attendance over the previous 12 months.

On Christmas Eve the Sunday School children performed the Nativity during the Crib Service. This year's cast included 27 children; their efforts were greatly appreciated as was the support of parents in the preparation and rehearsing.

The theme for each Sunday reflects that of the main service, adapted to suit each age group. At the close of the service the children enjoy reporting back on what they have discussed and sharing their take-home activity. This helps to reinforce the theme of the day and encourages and recognises the children's participation as members of the congregation.

The Sunday School depends upon, and much appreciates, the support of its team of helpers to ensure that two DBS-checked adults work with each group. Grateful thanks to Stephanie Beaumont, Monique Beckett, Coral Doggett, Rachel Greaves, Melissa Green, Tamsyn Hadden, Karoline Mansell, and Angie and Dan Whiddett.

The Sunday School will continue to work to encourage the children in the congregation, and the community, to take part in and enjoy the Sunday School. We are helped in this by the strong links that Reverend Furlong and the Sunday School helpers have with the village school.

Prayer for the Sunday School:

Lord, we pray for all the adults in the Sunday School team. Please guide them as they teach your message to the children in our Christian community. May you work through them.

Lord, we pray for all the children in the Sunday School. May they hear, understand and be guided by your word as they begin their Christian journey.

Bell Ringers' Report — Sheila George (Tower Captain)

The tower continues to be a very active area of our church, with the bells being rung on Sundays and Thursdays and silently on other occasions during the week. The Ely Diocesan Association of Bellringers has a new Education Centre at Stretham where bellringers can go to be taught the basics or improve their skills, but our own tower is being used in much the same way.








Phillip and Sheila have passed Module 2 of the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme and become full members of the Association of Ringing Teachers. The tower facilities have been improved with the addition of new CCTV camera in the belfry, improved ringing simulator with new laptop connection to a second bell. More recently a new handrail rope has been installed on the staircase.

Training has included weekly additional 1:1 practices for learners, plus learners from other local towers have also used the training facility. Five new local ringers are being trained and all have signed up to the national Learning the Ropes (LTR) teaching scheme. LTR Level 1 certificates have been presented to Megan George and Jonathan Corrigan.

Andrew Lawrence and Jonathan Corrigan used Bellringing in their Duke of Edinburgh skills section to achieve the Bronze Awards. This involved them setting and achieving certain goals, one of these for Andrew was to ring his first quarter peal.

We are always keen to welcome visitors to the tower, this year being visited by worldwide representatives of Johnson Matthey, a tower tour for 1st Gransdens Guides and visits from 4 groups of ringers.

Special events have included:

-  Ringing skills morning in February
-  Ringing for England (UK event) on 23rd April
-  Ringing for the village event commemorating the end of WWII
-  Annual outing with Swavesey ringers to Suffolk in September
-  Hosting the Association Young Ringers meeting in September
-  Annual ringers Christmas dinner again kindly hosted by David and Sheila Prest
-  12 quarter peals and 1 peal rung during the year

Practices continue to be busy and fun-packed, catering for all abilities. We value the support and loyalty of all our ringers especially for Sunday service ringing. Training is a continuous process with all ringers achieving intermediate targets as part of the national training schemes.

Have a look at <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> or on the church Facebook page to see what we are getting up to.

PCC Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which can meet between full meetings. Some committees draw members from across the benefice group. The membership of these committees may include members of the congregation who are not on the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Members: Priest in Charge, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

Fabric Committee

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of the church building and churchyard.

Members: as for the Standing Committee

All Age Worship Planning Group

Meets monthly to plan the services of All Age Worship

Members representing Gt Gransden: Tamsyn Hadden, Avril Bevens, Tony Bevens, Teresa Miller, Nadine Santus, Iain Strath.

Mission and Outreach

This committee organises fund raising events for charities and ensures information received from these organisations is disseminated to the church, school and community.

Members: Helen Catmur (Chair) Jennifer Wilkinson (Gt. Gransden), Alison Wareham (Lt. Gransden) Christine Badcock (Waresley), Philip Soar (Abbotsley).

Electoral Roll — Mark Doggett

The current electoral roll for Great Gransden (*dated 06/03/2016*) shows 110 members of whom 103 are resident and 7 non-resident.

The electoral roll on 12th March 2015 indicated 101 members, 93 of whom were resident and 8 non-resident.

The electoral roll changes since 12th March 2015 are 1 leaver (non-residential) and 10 joiners (10 residential and 0 non-residential).

Sidespeople (Both Parishes)

Betty Bates, Avril Bevens, Janice Brown, Jenny Capps, Mike Capps, Celia Chignell, Rob Chignell, Anne Constantine, Dan Cuming, Margaret Dearing, George Donovan, Jean Donovan, Gill Elwood, Rachel Fogg, Sheila George, Jeff Gorton, Tom Hipwell, Sue Lawrence, Donald Lester, Jane Middleton, Julian Miller, Teresa Miller, Craig Santus, Iain Strath, Mick Ward, Alison Wareham, Nick Wareham, Jenny Wilkinson.

Other adults and children are encouraged to help with these duties especially at All Age Worship services.

Churchyard — Rob Chignell

I have been involved with our churchyard for quite a while now and definitely during the last two or three years it has been the best I have ever known. Our grass cutters are : Barry Girling, Nick Foster, Bob Cross and Julian Miller. Ann Girling tends the flower beds and Mike Capps weed kills around the base of the church and the grave stones. Thanks to you all !!

Around the back of the church ivy has spread over a large area, smothering the grass. This year we plan to cut the ivy down to ground level and re-instate the grass.

The churchyard is actually the responsibility of the Parish Council and they keep a careful eye on the state of the trees.

Safeguarding Report Phillip George — Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Teresa Miller and I attended the Safeguarding Co-ordinators' meeting at Huntingdon. This was an opportunity to meet co-ordinators from other parishes and to keep up to date with developments in safeguarding policy and procedures.

During the year Rachel Fogg undertook training in Level 1 safeguarding and Phillip George completed level 1 & 2. training at the Diocesan Office - Bishop Woodford House in Ely.

The annual meeting with Teresa Miller (Sunday School) and Sheila George (Choir) took place in November. All documentation including risk assessments, policies and procedures were reviewed.

There are currently 18 DBS checked volunteers helping in Sunday School, Choir and Bell Ringing.

Childline Telephone Number 0800 1111
<http://www.childline.org.uk>

Great and Little Gransden Churches Website

<http://www.thegransdens.btck.co.uk/>



[facebook.com/greatandlittlegransdenchurches](https://www.facebook.com/greatandlittlegransdenchurches)

Choir Report — Sheila George — ALM Music

A busy year for The Choir as usual but with some major changes.

Firstly, we have welcomed 2 new members – Paul Miller has joined us in the bass section, and little Christopher Walker joins his mum and sister.

Victor's retirement as organist at the end of July has brought an end to an era of 56 years and he was finding it difficult and a worry towards the end. This has caused difficulties in that we have not had a permanent organist for the last 6 months, relying with thanks on Jeremy Hadden, Andrew Smith and Don Airy to accompany our services. Initially Elaine Watson helped with Choir Practices but her work now means she can no longer attend on a Wednesday, so I have to cope with conducting and accompanying where I can on my keyboard. This is problematic mainly because we are not rehearsing with the organist playing on Sundays and tempo and volume can vary greatly.

At the end of the year we totalled 23 in number but attendances fluctuate greatly due to illness, care of elderly parents, family bereavements, music lessons, and more attractive events on a Sunday morning. Although we have a board to record possible absences this never gives a true record of who will be there.

We have continued to attend the Group Services at Waresley as a Choir which still means transporting all our heavy hymn books (and hymn board) over to Waresley as they cannot supply music books.

The RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme continues albeit rather slowly in some cases. Congratulations to Nadine who was successful in the Bishop's Award examination and Emily and Rachel Walker in the Dean's Award examinations in the Spring/Summer.

Special Events during the year

- ♪ Tenebrae; the devotional service for Choir & Congregation on Good Friday
- ♪ Diocesan Choir Festival in May at Ely Cathedral
- ♪ Music Sunday in June celebrated at the Family Communion at Great Gransden
- ♪ Cambridge Archdeaconry Festival in September at Kings College, Cambridge
- ♪ RSCM Celebration at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral in October
- ♪ Christmas celebrations involving lots of extra music

The last half of the year has not been easy and has been an unsettling time. Although there will be changes coming up with some of our members no longer being able to commit I can see exciting times ahead with the appointment of a new organist.

Secretary's Report — Great Gransden — Iain Strath

Joint PCC Meetings

From 2010 the PCCs of Great and Little Gransden have found it beneficial to hold joint meetings to discuss matters relating to Mission and Ministry. These Joint PCCs reflect the close working together of our two churches and the sharing of church services.

In 2015 the Joint PCC met on 28 January and 29 September and, in addition to arrangements for future services, discussion has centred on the meetings for the diocesan strategic consultations and their likely outcomes. The future for the present benefice is our major concern in the light of the suspension of presentation rights.

PCC Meetings

Great Gransden PCC held two meetings on 18 March and 8 July to discuss matters mainly relating to fabric, finance and administration.

Substantial building works included both essential repairs and improvement. The new extra space in the transept gained by the removal of front pews has already been filled by a troop of high jumping Masai warriors and a large choir singing Handel's Messiah. Grants and a £10000 loan from the Cambridge Historic Churches Trust were expertly put together by Rachel Fogg, who together with Phillip George remarkably raised some £2000 by their Big Walk.

Our Mission and Ministry team has seen some changes during the year. Our thanks go to Helen Catmur and Tamsyn Hadden for their excellent work and to Jenny Wilkinson who is now part of the team.

St Bartholomew's owes a huge debt of gratitude to Victor Hughes whose long and much appreciated service as church organist was celebrated in August on his retirement.

Finally, the benefice continues to be enriched by the varied programme of both visits (Taize, Buckden Towers, Lindisfarne) and visitors arranged by our priest, Catharine.

Annual Reports

In addition to the reports on finance and fabric, the various reports found here summarise the work of this PCC and working groups responsible for the many aspects of our church life in both Little and Great Gransden.

Our grateful thanks are extended to Phillip George who expertly and elegantly produces the finished product.

Church Attendance — GREAT GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2015					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
4 th	All Age Worship 10.00am	40	2	42	N/A
11 th	No service				
18 th	Family Communion with Baptism 9.30am	55	25	80	54
25 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	3	0	3	N/A

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas 2015				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day 9.30am Family Communion	85	15	100	82
Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service	195	95	290	N/A
Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion	84	0	84	55
Christmas Day	No service			

Other Data for 2015		Adults	Children
Average attendance at Sunday services other than at major festivals		50	18
Baptisms		6	
Weddings		3	
Funerals		2	

On behalf of Great Gransden PCC

Rev. Catharine Furlong
Priest in Charge

Iain Strath
Secretary to PCC

All Age Worship Report — Sheila George

At the beginning of the year Tamsyn informed the Planning Group that she would be standing down as Chairman at the end of July after a period of about 6 years. We thank her for her leadership over this time and will miss her connections with the School. When time permits she still joins us at our meetings but so far no-one has been found to replace her. However, we have welcomed one newcomer to our little group – Iain Strath who has already led 2 of our services.

At the end of the trial year of the service time being 10am we took a straw poll at one of the services which indicated that this was the preferred time of those who regularly attend and at the joint PCC meeting in January 2016 it was agreed to keep it at 10am.

Looking back over the year we have provided a variety of themes and activities with 6 people leading as well as the Scouts and Brownies playing an active part. We have included little plays, a hanging basket demonstration, prayer stations, Tony the baker, sun flower growing challenge, and how to make a lava lamp, just to mention a few. Although keeping the same format each month, we have included different prayers, confessions and where appropriate the Good News Bible for readings.

Our newly formed Music Group played for the first time at our June service, and on a couple of occasions since. Finding time to rehearse is a challenge, and the fact that many of our services fall during school holiday times does not help. But hopefully more in the future.

I would like to express thanks to all the members of the planning group – Tony & Avril Bevens, Janice Brown, Donald Lester, Tamsyn Hadden, Teresa Miller, Nadine Santus, and Iain Strath for their support and coming up with something new each month. The biggest challenge of the year has been to find a time to suit all when we can meet to plan the service – we need double the number of evenings in the week as we all lead such busy lives.

Although we are young at heart we would like to encourage involvement from the younger members of our congregation to help us with fresh ideas and move this service forward into 'infinity and beyond' to quote Buzz Lightyear!

Mission & Outreach Report — Jennifer Wilkinson

Mission and Outreach gives us opportunities to practice Christian fellowship in our churches, in our own communities and across the world.

Currently the members of the Mission and Outreach committee are: Great Gransden: Jenny Wilkinson (chair) and Helen Catmur; Little Gransden: Alison Wareham; Abbotsley: Philip Soar; Waresley: Christine Badcock.

We are very grateful to Amy James (Abbotsley) and Louise Wigan (Waresley) for their work, support and fellowship for a long time until they both resigned quite recently. We welcome Philip and Christine. We support charities caring for others, in prayer and financially, whilst encouraging fellowship within our parishes.

One charity we are currently supporting, via US (United Society), is a project in the parish of Christ the King, in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, offering free music lessons to children in the parish. This was started by Father Nicholas Wheeler, who visited us in November to talk about his work there over the previous ten years. He is now working in Chelsea and Kensington and the projects have been taken over by Revd Antonio Terto. To support this project we organised two musical events: a family workshop led by Dr Douglas Coombes, when those who attended learnt Samba music. This was a fun afternoon. Those attending ranged in age from babes in arms with older siblings, up to grandparents, including several teenagers. We also had a Come and Sing from The Messiah, which was conducted by Dr Douglas Coombes, accompanied by Paul Bryan on the organ.

We support Mind in Cambridgeshire, a branch of the nationwide charity Mind, supporting people in their recovery from mental health issues and campaigning against stigma and discrimination. We held another Mindful Meander in April.

Thanks to Teresa Miller we continue to have a Traidcraft stall once a month in Great Gransden Church. In March we held a Chocolate Extravaganza for Fairtrade. Also thanks to Revd Catharine Furlong for the speakers she invites to our services during the year to speak about their organisations, e.g. MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and Christian Aid.

During Advent our Posada figures were hosted by people from all four parishes and we sent £60 for the work of The Church Army. We also had boxes in all four churches for the collection of postcards for MAF and used postage stamps for the hospice at Moggerhanger. Our harvest gifts were shared between the Salvation Army and the Foodbank. We also sent hats, scarves, etc. to Jimmy's, the homeless shelter in Cambridge.

We will continue to pray for all the charities we support and try to raise awareness of the needs of others wherever they are and in so doing pray to foster fellowship in our group of parishes.

Treasurer's Report — Great Gransden — Andrew Fogg

As of 31 Dec 2015, the General Account held £10417; on 31 Dec 2014, the balance was £5523, so a substantial increase on the year, partly due to the funding for the Quinquennial works. Also Gift Aid was successfully claimed for 2012, 2013 and 2014 in early 2015, yielding £8273. A claim was also successfully made under the new Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£2095).

The annual Church Fete continues to raise around £3000 and remains a very important source of income.

The "2015" donations to Mind In Cambridgeshire and US (USPG) were made in November 2015, £400 in each case.

There were several retiring collections that were dedicated to various charities during the year.

Ministry Share increased to £16,412 (from £15,800). The insurance premium decreased slightly relative to 2014 (£3651 vs £3765) but will increase again in 2016 (to £3858). Heating oil prices moderated somewhat in 2015.

There continue to be significant costs for photocopying under Administration, and this will continue.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant. Funds for the works arising from the Quinquennial inspection were successfully raised, but £10,000 of the money was in the form of a loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust which needs to be paid back in four instalments of £2500 in the month of May in 2016, 17, 18 and 19, so further fundraising is needed. On the brighter side there was a welcome and unexpected bequest of £5000 which made a useful contribution to the funding.

The PCC still needs to repay the interest-free loan of £10,000 from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, the first instalment of which is due in May 2016 (the other instalments are due in May 2017, 2018 and 2019). Funds are in hand for this first payment but further fundraising will be required to repay the remainder.

The continuing current miserable rates of deposit interest mean that the funds on deposit are still not keeping up with inflation.

Fabric Report — Great Gransden — Rachel Fogg

Major works

In April – June 2015 the church undertook the removal of the two front pews on the north side of the nave, the tiling of the resulting new space and re-tiling of the spaces in front of the south side and Lady Chapel front pews to match, and a programme of repair works to the stonework of the north and south clerestory parapets, the north porch parapet and the east window, all works recommended at the last quinquennial inspection.

The pews were sold, one to a family in Little Gransden and one to a church conversion in Yorkshire. The new space has already proved its worth at weddings, funerals and special events. Please admire the repairs to the East window as you walk down the churchyard path to the dole field and to the north porch as you enter the church.

The PCC would like to record its thanks to the architect Canon Julian Limentani (who is retiring at Easter 2016), and to the builder Brown and Ralph. The total cost of the works was £28,311 which included extra costs over the original quotation of £3653 for additional work that came to light once the scaffold was up, in particular to the east window.

The lead on the south clerestory windows still needs to be painted, but this work can be undertaken using volunteer labour and should be complete by the end of the summer 2016.

Small works

A new rope handrail has been installed in the tower by Phillip George and David Prest, 50% funded by the bell ringers. The PCC is very grateful for this work.

The repairs to the churchwarden's chest have not yet been put in hand. A second restorer visited in May 2015 but no quotation has yet been forthcoming.

Regular works

The regular care and maintenance programme has been carried out by a wide range of volunteers who provide a great deal of time and effort, both inside the church and around the grounds. Thanks are particularly due to Rob Chignell for gutter and downpipe clearance, oversight of the churchyard maintenance, and for supporting me in my dealings with the architect and builder; to Phillip George for general tower maintenance and the band of people who cut the grass, maintain the churchyard and clean the church continuously.

The organ has been tuned twice this year. Fire extinguishers have been serviced as has the boiler.

The next quinquennial inspection is due in 2016.

Please pray for the opportunities the extra space at the front of the church will offer for worship and for community use.

Diocesan Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

Donald Lester and I are the current members of Diocesan Synod. I was re-elected in summer 2015 for a further 3 years. Betty Bates was also re-elected but stood down at the end of 2015. Diocesan Synod meets 3 times a year, in March, July and October. Regular business includes a report from Bishop's Council and a Presidential Address usually from Bishop Stephen. New Diocesan Officers are also commissioned at Synod meetings.

In March we heard from Canon Alan Hargrave about the Big Thank You, had an excellent presentation on national research into Fresh Expressions of church and heard about the Partnership Covenant between the Diocese of Ely and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Germany.

In June Synod received the Diocesan accounts for 2014 and considered the Diocesan strategy – Ely 2025. We received the report from the Judge Business School on the consultation and after some discussion Synod voted to adopt the Strategy.

The October meeting (which I was unable to attend) had a further update on the Strategy – agreeing to concentrate on discipleship and promoting healthy churches and leaving the buildings audit to 2017 - received the Budget for 2016 and listened to two presentations, one on the Kassam Agricultural Institute and one on the Anglican Centre in Rome.

I expect the Synods in 2016 to continue to focus on the Strategy. I have been pleased that in the past year there has been more opportunity for discussion in small groups rather than simply listening to reports.

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ in our parishes and in our lives outside them. Please pray for the Diocese, its officers and parishes as we all consider the impact of the new Strategy.



Joint Parish Reports

St. Neots Deanery Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

The Deanery Synod is the next layer of church governance after the Parochial Church Council. It consists of representatives from every parish in the Deanery. Its members elect Diocesan Synod and General Synod members. Two representatives from Great Gransden, Helen Catmur and Rachel Fogg, and one from Little Gransden, Betty Bates, were re-elected to serve on St Neots Deanery Synod for a three year term at the APCM in 2014. Donald Lester is an ex-officio member of Deanery Synod.

Synod met 5 times in 2015. Aside from the regular business of the meetings – Deanery events, reports from Diocesan and General Synod and finance – we have discussed children's work, with a presentation from the new Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, Debbie Hill and youth work in the Deanery, with a presentation from Rachel Heffer, Diocesan Youth Officer as well as the Diocesan Strategy, Ely 2025. There was also a meeting to discuss the deployment of clergy and the likely changes in the population within the Deanery.

Ministry Share is the money that each parish pays to the Diocese to cover the costs of its priest. The Diocese requests a certain sum from each Deanery, and the Deanery treasurer communicates the required sum to each parish and oversees the process. In 2015 the Deanery again met its Ministry Share commitment in full.

New Ministry Share arrangements take effect in 2016, calculated on a far more transparent basis. From 2016 onwards parishes who pay in full by direct debit will be credited with a 2.5% rebate by the Diocese – this rebate used to go to the Deanery Hardship Fund, but the Fund is now sufficiently healthy that this rebate can be passed back to Parishes.

Please pray: for the churches in the Deanery as they consider the Diocesan strategy and its impact on their ministry; for the conversations taking place about youth work in the Deanery; for the new housing developments in the Deanery and the opportunities they bring.

Little Gransden Parochial Church Council

Administrative Information

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul is situated in Little Gransden. It is part of the Deanery of St Neots and the Diocese of Ely. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 4 Webbs Meadow, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds. SG19 3BL.

Objectives and Activities

Little Gransden Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelic, social and ecumenical.

The parish is part of the united benefice of Great Gransden, Abbotsley, Little Gransden and Waresley. This united benefice came into being on 1 August 1999 and on 29 January 2006 Reverend Catharine Furlong was licensed as half-time Priest in Charge.

PCC Members who have served since 1st January 2014 and who have continued until the date of this report have been:

Priest in Charge:	Rev. Catharine Furlong	- Chairperson
Churchwarden:	Mrs Sheila George	- Vice-Chairperson until April 2015
Churchwarden:	Prof. Nicholas Wareham	Vice chairperson from April 2015
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mrs Betty Bates	<i>(elected until 2017)</i>
Elected Members:	Mrs Janice Brown	
	Mrs Suzanne Lawrence	
	Mr Donald Lester	- Treasurer until April 2015
	Mr. Ian Ramsay	Treasurer from April 2015
	Dr Stephen Sullivan	- Secretary

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.

Most of the business, particularly in relation to matters concerning fabric and finance, is dealt with at full meetings of the PCC. Joint meetings of the PCCs of Little Gransden and Great Gransden deal with matters which are common to both parishes (particularly in relation to worship and pastoral matters, mission and outward giving). In addition, there are several committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. Some of these committees represent Great and Little Gransden; others include representatives from all parishes within the united benefice. These may also include members of the congregation(s) who are not members of a PCC.

(Lt Gransden PCC cont)

The committees are as follows:

Standing Committee

Priest in Charge, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer
This committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC.

Monthly All-Age Worship Planning Committee.

This committee meets monthly to plan the All-Age Worship service for the next month. Janice Brown, Sheila George and Donald Lester represent Little Gransden.

Churchwardens Meetings

The Churchwardens of the benefice meet together on a regular basis to discuss matters relating to the four parishes. Sheila George and Nick Wareham represent the parish at these meetings.

Baptismal Visitors Committee

This consists of a team of pastoral visitors from the four parishes who help families in the preparation for baptism. Janice Brown represents Little Gransden.

Mission and Outreach Committee

This meets to consider the links that the Church has with home and overseas mission and discusses ways in which support can be given. Alison Wareham represented Little Gransden on this committee.

Electoral Roll — Suzanne Lawrence

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2015 there were 30 persons on the church Electoral Roll of whom 12 were not resident in the parish. As at the date of this Report the figures were the same. The Electoral Roll Officer was Ian Ramsay until April 2015, and Suzanne Lawrence thereafter.

Fabric Report — Little Gransden — Nick Wareham

The most recent quinquennial inspection of the Church in March 2012 categorised various required works according to their degree of urgency.

The top requirement under category A (needing immediate attention) was the repair to the East Chancel parapet. I am pleased to report that thanks to a successful grant application to the AmeyCespa Community Fund for £15k, we were able to complete these repairs in 2015.

Our next highest priority problem is the nave roof. This is made of slate and was deemed by our architect to be in need of replacement within 18-24 months of our last quinquennial report (2012). Due to lack of funds we have not been able to countenance this work until now. However, a scheme is available for co-funding from the Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) roof repair fund which is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. We have therefore applied for 50% of the anticipated costs of this project which we hope to undertake in 2016. The total cost is estimated to be £95k including VAT, which is recoverable from the LPOW scheme.

In 2015 our long serving church architect, Shona McKay retired. We are very grateful to Shona for all her years of service. Following a recruitment process, we have appointed Stephanie Norris of Purcells (see <http://www.purcelluk.com/who-we-are/our-people/associates/stephanie-norris>) as our new church architect.

We have commissioned Stephanie and colleagues to update the survey of the nave roof as we required an updated statement of need for our LPOW application. She has confirmed that the roof is now in need of urgent repair.

Once the roof is mended, we intend to proceed with interior redecoration of the church including repairs to the masonry of the north arcade columns and the base of the tower arch. Finally we have commissioned Purcell to undertake a feasibility study to investigate the potential for various structural improvements to the church fabric including enhanced disabled access, provision of an accessible WC and provision of a server. At this stage, we are only investigating possibilities and decisions to proceed with any changes will require grant fund raising and consultation with parishioners.

The PCC is up to date with all necessary tests including PAT tests of portable electrical goods. The audit of all items within the church building was complete.

Finally we are extremely grateful to all those who clean the church building and the churchyard.

Treasurer's Report — Little Gransden — Ian Ramsay

2015 was dominated by the chancel gable repairs project. The building works were successfully completed in the year and fortunately the PCC received a grant to cover the majority of the cost.

As in previous years there were a number of fund raising events, the major ones being the annual Summer fete and Autumn bazaar. The church is extremely grateful to everyone who helped in any way to raise money.

Charitable donations were made to The United Society, Christian Aid, Cambridgeshire Mind, The Children's Society, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Leprosy Mission.

The church was left a generous legacy in 2015 which is to be spent on church maintenance. The PCC will undertake a feasibility study in 2016 to decide on the possible options for spending the money.

In 2015 there was a shortfall of just over £2,500 on the general running costs of the church. This is larger than in recent years. The PCC will consider strategies to increase income in 2016.

Further information on all aspects of the parish's finances will be given in the statement of accounts for 2015 which is being issued separately at the Annual General Meeting.



Window in Lt Gransden Church

Secretary's Report - Little Gransden — Stephen Sullivan

Review of the Year

The PCC has met three times during the year to consider Finance and Fabric and once immediately after the Annual Joint Parochial Church Meeting in order to elect officers. There have been two additional PCC meetings, jointly with Great Gransden, to consider Mission and Ministry. The Standing Committee met once.

An annual Fire and Health & Safety inspection of the church building takes place, and the results and recommendations are communicated to the Parish Council. There were no reported accidents or dangerous occurrences during the year ended 31 December 2015. Policies for Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, for Conflict of Interest, for Access and Amenity and for Health and Safety are in place and are reviewed on an annual or bi-annual basis as appropriate.

The full Treasurer's Report, annexed to the statement of accounts, will show the outcomes of the various fund-raising events held throughout the year. The regular Summer Fete and Autumn Bazaar were held, and were both successful financially despite the weather. Those who organised these events, and those who helped with them in any way, are thanked most warmly for their efforts.

Joint PCC

We continue to monitor the new pattern of services, with reference to the number of services held at Little Gransden church and the involvement of young people in these services. Little Gransden has fulfilled its commitments so far as Outward Giving is concerned.

Pastoral Matters

All those who contribute or have contributed to the life and fellowship of Little Gransden Church are thanked for their efforts. Thanks are given to our Churchwardens and to our Lay Ministers, Tony Bevens (LLM). Sheila George (ALM, Music) and Janice Brown (ALM, Pastoral).

Thanks are also given to the Reverend Catharine Furlong, who has continued to lead the worship and fellowship in Little Gransden Church.

Joint Reports

Reports on various aspects of parish life shared between Great Gransden and Little Gransden Parish Churches are annexed to the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. This year's joint reports have been kindly collected and collated by Phillip George.

On behalf of Little Gransden PCC

Rev. Catharine Furlong
Priest in Charge

Dr Stephen Sullivan
Secretary to PCC

Church Attendance — LITTLE GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2015					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
4 th	Holy Communion 8.00am	10	0	10	9
11 th	No service	-	-	-	-
18 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	3	0	3	N/A
25 th	Family Communion 9.30am	29	3	32	29

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas Day 2015				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day NO SERVICE	0	0	0	0
Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am	70	6	76	56

Other Data for 2015	
Baptisms	0
Weddings	0
Blessings of Marriage	0
Thanksgiving for Birth of a Child	0
Funeral with internment	2
Funeral with cremation	2

The average attendance at Sunday services, other than at services on major festivals, throughout 2015					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
8.00	Holy Communion	9	0	9	11
9.30	Family Communion	30	4	34	12
10.00	Group Family Communion	41	4	45	5
4.00	Christingle, Carol & Harvest Services	69	13	82	1
6.00	Evening Prayer	6	0	6	13
Overall Average Attendance				21	
Total Number of Services					42

Weekly attendances on Fridays during October 2015				
	Service	Adults	Children	Total
2nd	No service -	-	-	-
9th	No service	-	-	-
16th	4.30pm Evening Prayer	3	-	3
24th	No service	-	-	-
31st	4.30pm Evening prayer	2	-	2