

The Parish Churches of Great and Little Gransden

Annual Report for 2013



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 2013 to 31st March 2014



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Priest in Charge Report - The Rev'd Catharine Furlong

I want to celebrate who we are and thank the many people who help make our churches 'happen'.

Thanks to all who give their time in whatever capacity to those who work with our children, Teresa Miller and her helpers; those who sing and serve and set up for our worship; those who manage our money and serve on committees; our Churchwardens Sheila George, Nick Wareham and Rachel Fogg for their hard work; our Licensed Lay Minister Tony Bevens for his teaching and preaching; for our Authorised Lay Ministers our Pastoral Assistants Janice Brown and Sheila Thompson for their care for others particularly in the areas of Baptism and the older members of our Communities and Sheila George for her Music Ministry. Thanks also to the flower arrangers and church cleaners; our Church Choir members; our Mission and Outreach Committee; Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteers taking patients to Sunday Chapel Services.

Thank you for this year for all who help both seen and unseen.
May God bless you all.

Opportunities have been given over the past twelve months to experience a Visit to the Taize Community in France with its' monastic daily worship and life; sharing with many others about the Christian life in small groups.

Day Visits have been made to Westminster Abbey for a Tour and Choral Evensong and to the National Gallery in London to look at Christianity through Art.

On a wider note Bishop Geralyn Wolf from Rhode Island from America paid us a visit and joined us for Compline by Candlelight and a Shared Supper in Church.

Through links with our Church School once again we welcomed the Watoto Childrens' Choir from Uganda to give a Concert in Great Gransden Church. Their enthusiasm is infectious as they dance and sing demonstrating something of the Spirit of God serving Him and not themselves. On staying in the homes with members of the local community and time in school they expressed a sense of human warmth and personal contact with God and those they met, a willingness to be open, trusting and vulnerable.

May God help us in the future to build on our foundations to usher in the Kingdom of God.

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 2013 to April 2014 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong
Church Warden: Mrs Rachel Fogg - Vice Chairperson
Mr Neil Parker - Vice Chairperson
(resigned July 2013)

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 Craig Santus
Mrs Jeanette Steemers
Mr Iain Strath - Secretary
Mrs Jennifer Wilkinson
Ex Officio: Mr Tony Bevens - Licensed Lay Minister
Mr Donald Lester- Diocesan Synod

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 (Chair), Avril Bevens, Tony Bevens, Helen Catmur, Donald Lester, Teresa Miller, Nadine Santus.

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), Tamsyn Hadden (Lt. Gransden), Louise Wigan (Waresley), Amy James (Abbotsley).

Electoral Roll

The revision of the electoral roll on 9th April 2013 indicated that there were 96 members, of whom 90 were Resident and 6 non-resident. The number who left the electoral roll was 51, 46 of whom were not renewed and 5 who had moved away.

The electoral roll on 31st December 2013 indicated 101 members, 95 of whom were resident and 6 non-resident.

Our thanks go to Nicola Thomas who has been our Electoral Roll Secretary and to Mark Doggett who has taken up this appointment.

Sidespeople

Avril Bevens, Jenny Capps, Michael Capps, Anne Constantine, Celia Chignell, Rob Chignell, Dan Cuming, Margaret Dearing, Jean Donovan, George Donovan, Gill Elwood, Rachel Fogg, Jon Gardner, Jeff Gorton, Donald Lester, Iain Strath, Mick Ward.

Other adults and children are encouraged to help with these duties especially at Family Services.

Secretary's Report — Great Gransden — Iain Strath

Joint PCC Meetings

From 2010 the PCCs of Great and Little Gransden has 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 2013 the Joint PCC met on 23 January and 24 September and, in addition to arrangements for future services, a Safeguarding Policy was put in place for both parishes and a working group established to consider how Facebook and the churches' website could be used to improve our mission and outreach.

PCC Meetings

Great Gransden PCC held two meetings on 6 March and 26 June to discuss matters mainly relating to fabric, finance and administration.

As well as ensuring the security of the church premises, maintaining the heating system and the upkeep of the churchyard, the PCC considered the possibility of an adaptation to the space in the transept to provide more room to suit the range and nature of the Sunday services now held in the church.

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.

Church Attendance — GREAT GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2013					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
6 th	All Age Worship 11.00am	31	25	56	N/A
13 th	No service				
20 th	Family Communion 9.30am	52	25	77	Not recorded
27 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	10	0	10	N/A

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas 2013				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day Family Communion 9.30am	54	11	65	52
Christmas Eve Crib Service 4.00pm	224	74	318	N/A
Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.15pm	85	6	91	67
Christmas Day	No service			

2013	Adults	Children
Average attendance at Sunday services other than at major festivals	50	25
Other Data for 2013		
Baptisms	4	
Weddings	4	
Funerals	2	

Treasurer's Report — Great Gransden — Andrew Fogg

As of Dec 31 2013, the General Account held £3601; on 31 Dec 2012, the balance was £3228, so (amazingly!) a small increase on the year.

No Gift Aid claim was made during 2013. The Treasurer has signed up to the HMRC online claim system and will be making a claim for the 2012 and 2013 financial years early in 2014.

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

The "2012" and "2013" donations to Mind In Cambridgeshire and US (USPG) were made in Dec 2013 and January 2014 respectively, £400 in each case.

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

Ministry Share increased to £15,500 (from £15,000). The insurance premium remained roughly the same as 2012. Heating oil continues to rise (£1351 for 1922 litres – 70p/litre - in May 2011; £1021 for 1390 litres - 73p/litre - in June 2012, compare £1180 for 1500 litres – 75p/litre – in March 2013 and £1595 for 2000 litres – nearly 80p/litre - in February 2014). The Treasurer is considering refilling the tank in July to move the annual refill to a time of year when oil is usually cheaper.

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

A contribution to the organist's honoraria in 2012 and 2013 (£2000 in total) was taken from the John & Bessie Brown Fund in 2013.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant but is about to be reactivated for the works arising from the Quinquennial inspection.

The works arising from the Quinquennial inspection will require a major fundraising effort in 2014; £40-50,000 will be needed to cover everything. A small start has been made on this in that the Friends of St Bartholomew's have finally resolved the last outstanding debt and so can pass their remaining funds (just over £2,500) to the Restoration Fund.

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 & Rob Chignell

There have been no major works this year. The usual regular care and maintenance programme has been carried out by a wide range of volunteers to whom we are very grateful. They 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, Phillip George for general tower maintenance and the band of people who clean the church week in week out.

Small works include tuning the organ twice (once every six months), and servicing the fire extinguishers and boiler. There have been repairs to the tower stairs lighting.

Minster Lead have spent two days mending small leaks in the lead roof and undertaking urgent repointing. This work was recommended in the 2011 Quinquennial inspection.

Two new notice boards have been put up in the porch.

Plans for 2014

The PCC is intending to undertake the remainder of the 2011 Quinquennial works in 2014. An application for a Faculty is in hand. The PCC also intends to remove the two front pews at the east end of the north side of the nave, retaining the oak frontal, in order to even up the space at the front of the church and make a better space for the nave altar and for performances of all types, church and village. The PCC will need to raise in the order of £30,000 to undertake these works.

Please pray for the success of the fundraising and the completion of the works by the end of 2014. Please also pray for volunteers to offer their time to help with grant applications.

Churchyard

Once again the grass cutters have done a good job during 2013. Julian Miller, Bob Cross, Nick Foster, Barry Girling—thank you all for your conscientious efforts.

It has been decided to cut down the size of the beds either side of the path leading down to the church porch by 50% and to grass over these areas. They can be re-instated as flower beds at any time in the future. The remaining beds will be planted with annuals for the summer. Thanks to Anne Girling for her help with looking after these beds.

The Parish Council ensures that the Lime trees are checked regularly.

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 Catherine Furlong was licensed as part-time Priest in Charge.

PCC Members who have served since 1st January 2013 and who have continued until the date of this report have been:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Catharine Furlong - Chairperson
Churchwarden: Mrs Sheila George - Vice-Chairperson
Churchwarden: Prof. Nicholas Wareham
(elected at Meeting of Parishioners 22 September 2013)

Representative on the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Betty Bates *(elected until 2014)*

Elected Members: Mrs Janice Brown *(co-opted; elected from April 2013)*

Mrs Suzanne Lawrence *(co-opted from June 2013)*

Mr Donald Lester - Treasurer

Mr Ian Ramsay *(until April 2013)*

Dr Stephen Sullivan - Secretary

Mrs Rachel Walker *(until September 2013)*

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).

(Lt Gransden PCC cont)

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.

They 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 Family Service/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. Tamsyn Hadden has agreed to represent Little Gransden on this committee.

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2013 there were 26 persons on the church Electoral Roll of whom 11 were not resident in the parish. As at the date of this report there are 31 persons on the Roll of whom 12 are not resident in the parish. The Electoral Roll Officer was Beryl Hart until April 2013 and Ian Ramsay thereafter.

Secretary's Report, Little Gransden — Stephen Sullivan

Review of the Year

The PCC has met 3 times during the year and once immediately after the Annual Joint Parochial Church Meeting in order to elect officers. An extraordinary Meeting of Parishioners was held on 22 September 2013 in order to elect Professor Nicholas Wareham to the position of Churchwarden, thus filling a significant vacancy which has existed for some time. Sue Lawrence offered to join the PCC and was co-opted to serve from June 2013. After the successful completion of the Tower Restoration Project, we now approach some important building works listed as urgent in the Quinquennial Report of March 2012 (the 'East Chancel Gable project').

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. Although Little Gransden has fulfilled its commitments so far as Outward Giving is concerned, this has not necessarily been the case across the benefice, and changes are likely in future.

Pastoral Matters

As noted above, we have elected Nicholas Wareham as Churchwarden, thus filling a long-standing vacancy for a second Churchwarden. During the year Ian Ramsay and Rachel Walker have left the PCC. We are thankful for their efforts, and pleased that Ian has been able to take over the post of Electoral Roll Officer. Beryl Hart's resignation from that post in April 2013 marked the completion of over 40 years service to the Church and the PCC in various roles, and she will be very greatly missed. All those who contribute or have contributed to the life and fellowship of Little Gransden Church are thanked for their efforts.

The 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 and Autumn Fetes were held. Those who organised these events, and those who helped with them in any way, are thanked most warmly 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).

(Secretary's Report, Lt Gransden cont)

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.

Church Attendance — LITTLE GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2013					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
6 th	Holy Communion 8.00am	8	0	8	8
13 th	No service				
20 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	4	0	4	N/A
27 th	Family Communion w. Baptism 9.30am	65	7	72	42

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas Day 2013				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day NO SERVICE	0	0	0	0
Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am	74	7	81	53

The average attendance at Sunday services, other than at services on major festivals, throughout 2013					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
8.00	Holy Communion	8	0	8	12
9.30	Family Communion	34	4	38	11
10.00	Group Family Communion	29	4	33	2
11.00	Family Communion *	53	17	70	3
4.00	Christingle and Carol Services	90	47	137	2
6.00	Evening Prayer	5	0	5	6
Overall Average Attendance		25	6	31	
Total Number of Services					36

* includes baptisms and Mothering Sunday

Weekly attendances on Fridays during October 2013 were as follows					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
4th	No service				
11th	No service				
18th	No service				
25th	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	3	0	3

1 Baptism of a child under the age of one year
 1 Baptism of a child aged between 1 and 4 years.
 1 Baptism of a child aged between 5 and 12 years
 2 Marriages
 No Blessings of Marriage or Thanksgivings for the Birth of a Child
 1 Funeral.

Treasurer's Report — Little Gransden — Donald Lester

The years 2010—2012 inclusive were dominated and somewhat distorted by both income and expenditure relating to the tower restoration project. The year 2013 was more normal year with only minimal specific fund raising for fabric restoration purposes and more time to concentrate on routine matters.

Nevertheless, restoration funds increased by over £9,000 during 2013 which gives a good start to the fund raising which will be required to finance the next major restoration project mainly related to the chancel gable and rainwater goods, which is expected to cost in the region of £30,000, and which is scheduled to be carried out during the autumn of 2014.

Of more serious medium-term concern is the shortfall of just over £2,000 in 2013 on the general running costs of the church, and budgeted shortfall for 2014 of over £2,600. Active steps are now required to increase income and this will be another major area of effort during 2014.

A more detailed statement is annexed to the statement of accounts for 2013.



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

Fabric Report — Little Gransden

Sheila George & Nick Wareham

Last year our quinquennial inspection indicated urgent work is needed to the East Chancel wall. The faculty for this work has now been granted and we hope this work will take place during 2014. An inspection by Natural England took place in December 2013 and because of the presence of several varieties of bats they have stipulated that this work can only take place during late March or September. We have opted for the latter as this gives more time to apply for grant aid and fund raising. With VAT and fees we expect the cost of the work to be in the region of £28,000.

A second faculty application has been granted for the burial of cremated remains in the SE corner of the churchyard extension. Except for double depth graves no further burials of cremated remains will take place near the tower.

We have replaced glass cruets during the year due to breakage.

In July 2013 a large bough from the chestnut tree fell, narrowly missing the church porch. After consultation with South Cambs DC Tree Officer, Little Gransden Parish Council, and Mrs Seabright, it was felt the best action for safety reasons was for the tree to be felled. The tree was suffering from honey fungus and was believed to be in poor condition. The remaining tree stump has now been drilled out. The question of ownership of the tree and pathway through the churchyard came into these discussions. The Diocese advised us our boundary was probably the south side of the footpath. The paperwork issued when the Rectory was sold showed that boundary to be on the north side of path. Highways have now indicated that they are responsible for the maintenance of the pathway.

The Ely DA of Bellringers' Bell Adviser's report indicated that the bell fittings are in a derelict condition. Ropes have been removed from all but the tenor bell; this can still be used for tolling for services. It is unlikely that we carry out any restoration work here, as there are more major priorities elsewhere in the building.

EIO visited during January 2014 to carry out an insurance health check. This has raised several issues that are being rectified. They suggest that we should advise anyone working in church alone (ie cleaning, flower arrangers etc) should let someone know they will be there and to take a mobile phone (if they have one) to use in case of emergency.

Joint Parish Reports

St.Neots Deanery Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

Two representatives from Great Gransden, Helen Catmur and Rachel Fogg, and one from Little Gransden, Betty Bates, were elected to serve on St Neots Deanery Synod for a three year term in 2011. Donald Lester is an ex-officio member of Deanery Synod.

There are 14 deaneries in the Diocese of Ely. Deanery Synods are the first layer in the church's synodical government and are the electoral bodies for Diocesan representatives to General Synod. Ministry Share is allocated to the Deaneries and the Deaneries allocates the Share to the benefices and parishes within it. In 2013 St Neots Deanery was again able to meet its Ministry Share obligations in full.

St Neots Deanery Synod meets 5 times per year, in February, May, July, September and November. These meetings include regular business – finance, reports from Diocesan and General Synod, Deanery events – as well as presentations from various speakers.

In the past year we have had presentations from:
Canon Brian Atling on the review of the Ministry Share
Chris Bylett, ALM Music Buckden, on Creative Music in Worship
Peter Hagger, Deanery Treasurer, on Deanery finance
Dr Rob Skelton on the work of the Diocesan Environment Committee

We have also celebrated the work being done across the Deanery and in particular the various church reordering projects, heard about the new St Neots Foodbank and been encouraged by the appointment of a Pioneer Minister for the Loves Farm development.

Attending Deanery Synod helps us to learn from other parishes and also support those in times of difficulty. The Lent evensongs are an opportunity to share fellowship across the Deanery. Other Deanery events are publicised on the church website, on posters in the church and through the Rural Dean's email list. We are delighted to report that our Rural Dean, Revd Annette Reed, has just been appointed as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral.

Helen, Betty and I have greatly enjoyed our term on Deanery Synod which ends at this APCM.

We pray that cooperation across the Deanery will encourage all of us in our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Diocesan Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

Donald Lester, Betty Bates and I are all members of Diocesan Synod. Diocesan Synod meets 3 times a year, in March, July and October. Regular business includes a report from Bishop's Council and Presidential Address from the Bishop.

In March the whole synod was given over to the consideration of the question 'what does our desired future look like?' Discussions were held in small groups and then fed back to the whole Synod.

In June there were presentations on various aspects of Diocesan activity, including on the DAC (care of churches), from the new Director of Mission, Revd Peter Wood, and on the annual report of the Diocese.

The October meeting (which I sadly missed) covered the Diocesan Environmental Challenge, a report from the team who had visited the Diocese of Kigali in Rwanda, a presentation on the Flesh and Blood campaign (blood and organ donation), an update on the women in the episcopate discussions and a presentation from the Friends of the Holy Land on the plight of Palestinian Christians.

Bible Study Report — Jennifer Wilkinson

We met every fortnight until the summer holidays and then we had something of a break, mainly due to not being able to find a suitable evening when enough people could attend. Sometimes there were only 3 of us and sometimes up to 9, meeting in each others' homes, sharing thoughts, ideas and fellowship, using one of Tom Wright's books for guidance.

For Lent 2014 we have arranged three meetings across the group of four parishes to have discussions using the Lent resources from Us (formerly USPG) to help us with the 5 marks of Mission.

We pray that this might be a renewal for the group to help us to move forward, if not to meeting fortnightly then to meet up for special occasions and to support each other as we share God's word.

The Bible Reading Fellowship prayer:

Almighty God, you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word, to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love. And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly and follow more faithfully in the steps of your son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore. Amen.

Mission & Outreach Report — Helen Catmur

Our aim is to support charities caring for others outside our group of churches in prayer and financially, whilst encouraging and nurturing fellowship within our parishes. The charities we supported in 2013 are:

US (United Society)

They work through local churches to empower local communities. We welcomed the Chair of US, Jeanette O'Neill, who spoke about the work of US on 24 November 2013 in Little Gransden and Abbotsley, where we provided refreshments, with donations to their Philippines appeal.

We wish to support a specific project within the US umbrella in 2014 and recommend that all our parishes support the Reverend Nicholas Wheeler who is working with the poor and destitute in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

MIND in Cambridgeshire

Supports local people in their recovery from mental health issues, promotes wellbeing and campaigns against stigma & discrimination. In 2013 we organised a Mindful Meander in Abbotsley, followed by rolls and soup in the village hall and raised £80 for their work.

Traidcraft

We have a stall at Great Gransden on the third Sunday of each month. It is well supported. We raise between £50 -£80 each month. In 2013 we also had stalls at Great Gransden Church Fete, Abbotsley Feast Week fete, at Waresley Church fete and also at Little Gransden Autumn Bazaar.

Christian Aid

In 2013, the door to door collection in Great and Little Gransden raised £1331.64. We will welcome speakers from Christian Aid at our services at the beginning and end of Christian Aid Week (11-17 May 2014).

Other Charities

In 2013, we have also supported the Watoto Children's choir, the Children's Society, the Church Army, the Samaritans and Centrepont.

Our Challenge for 2014

We have got the year off to a flying start in 2014 with an event on 2 March at Great Gransden for Fairtrade fortnight called "Go Bananas" which raised over £120 for Fairtrade causes.

Mission and outreach is a fundamental part of Christian life, giving us the opportunity to practice Christian fellowship in our churches, in our communities and beyond. Please pray for God's guidance as to how we can best follow Jesus' example of loving our neighbours as ourselves wherever they are in our society and the wider world.

All Age Worship Report — Tamsyn Hadden

The All Age Worship service on the first Sunday of the month continues to offer a family friendly chance to worship and reflect on God's message. The dedicated committee work hard to devise services that will engage and inform at all levels so that everyone, from youngest to oldest, will find something to take away and consider. This is no mean feat, but it remains great fun to explore new and creative ways of presenting God's message.

We try to encourage as much participation as possible from all ages, both within the church community and among other groups in the village community. In October we welcomed the Scouts to lead our service which they did with great enthusiasm. It was lovely to see the church so full and so many boys and young leaders taking part in the service. Special thanks go to Chris Elwood and Dan Whiddett for organising the Scouts. We hope to welcome them back to take another service very soon.

It is unfortunate that many of our services seem to fall in school holidays, this makes it trickier to encourage families to attend and participate. We are hugely grateful to all those who have read, prayed, helped with addresses or volunteered in any way during our services.

The All Age Worship services are very much a joint effort, bringing together the skills, talents and enthusiasm of as many of our church family as we can in a supportive and understanding atmosphere.

Huge thanks, as ever to the wonderful committee who put in so much time and thought to every service: Sheila George, Avril and Tony Bevens, Donald Lester, Janice Brown, Helen Catmur, Jim Harvey, Nadine Santus, Teresa Miller and Reverend Furlong. Thanks too to Rachel Fogg and Melissa Green who have helped out with services this year. Melissa did a marvellous job taking her first service in December and we hope very much that she will be persuaded to help out again.

Lord God,

Direct our deliberations, inspire our congregations, encourage our volunteers; and help us to continue to bring inclusive and informative worship to our community, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Choir Report — Sheila George

I have been looking back at past reports, and apart from comings and goings nothing seems to change! We seem to be a constant part of church life here in The Gransdens. Several of our members are involved with other jobs in our church – 2 churchwardens, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, Sacristan, Coffee Rota, Bellringers, AAW Planners etc. The new faces we have welcomed are Sally Ann Walker, Elizabeth Pilcher and Sheila Prest. We are now 19½ singers - made up of 4 trebles, 6 sopranos, 6 contraltos, 1½ tenors, 2 basses, plus 1 organist.

We continue to practice every Wednesday in Great Gransden Church from 6.30pm. This has happened for the last 55 years and is always a happy occasion where we share music, prayer and support each other in our daily lives. Victor often interjects some oracle before our closing prayer. A couple of our members then dash off to sing with the St Neots Choral Society!

Training – The RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme continues - the colours of ribbons indicate progress. One adult has completed the Dark Blue Level in preparation for the Dean's Award examination in the Cathedral in March 2014.

Events for the Choir during the year

'Way of the Cross' – the devotional service for Choir & Congregation on Good Friday

Diocesan Choir Festival in May at Ely Cathedral

Music Sunday in June celebrated at the Eucharist at Little

Summer Supper at Nutbells

RSCM Festival at Kings College, Cambridge in September

We sang for three weddings during 2013

Christmas celebrations – always a busy singing time

Our second belated Christmas Safari Supper in February 2014

This year we have attended the Group Services at Waresley as a Choir. This has involved rehearsing with different organists, and we have managed a simple anthem each time. Abbotsley feel they cannot accommodate us a Choir.

Many of our psalms instruct us to praise the Lord in singing, but this verse might be more appropriate for many of us!

'Now these are the singers, heads of fathers' households of the Levites, who lived in the chambers of the temple free from other service; for they were engaged in their work day and night.'

1 Chronicles 9:33

Safeguarding Report

Phillip George— Safeguarding Co-ordinator

During 2013 I completed a level 2 safeguarding refresher course and Teresa Miller attended the Safeguarding Co-ordinators workshop at Milton. I met with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer to discuss future plans for transferability of DBS certificates but this process has not yet been finalised.

The use of photographs on church owned media has been discussed with particular reference to the use of images which include children. It is important that any images used must have the relevant permission from the parents / guardians.

Responsibility for publishing such images lies with the designated administrators of the church's website the Facebook page. Church organised events should also include a note that photographs might be taken and used in church publications.

This and other detail changes were notified to both PCCs in September 2013. The safeguarding policies and procedures were reviewed and amended as necessary by Phillip George, Sheila George and Teresa Miller in November 2013

There are currently 15 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/>

Bell Ringers Report — Sheila George (Tower Captain)

We continue to ring for all main services, practices on Thursdays and other occasions where appropriate. The nucleus of our band numbers 7, plus another 2 who join us occasionally. We have taught one new ringer – Victoria Moulton, from Wimpole Hall. Unfortunately Victoria's employment at Wimpole means she cannot make a commitment to ring on Sundays but she joins us at other times when possible. Matthew and Michele continue to join us on some Thursdays but they are now concentrating on teaching a new band at home at Littleport. Another loss was Michael Prest who is now studying in Bath.

Phillip and I attended an Integrated Teacher Training System (ITTS) training course for bellringers at Over in October. This is a national bellringing body that is enabling good teacher training. I have been accredited as a Teacher (which involved taking tests on line, and being observed whilst teaching) and Phillip is one of the accredited Mentors for the Association (someone who assesses the teachers).

In September we had a spring clean from the top to the bottom of the tower. Cake and coffee was taken half way through.

Our Open Day in the autumn did not attract as many as we had hoped. Fliers and a banner outside the church advertised the event but only a handful of people came along and some of these were just by chance.

A total of 10 quarter peals and 1 peal were rung during 2013.

2 quarter peals were by the local band.

1 was a date touch of 2013 changes to welcome the New Year.

1 quarter peal was by a band of visitors .

6 were just for fun rung by members of the Huntingdon District.

We rang for the Watoto Children's Choir in 2013 and 2014.

In October we joined with Swavesey ringers for a joint outing to Essex ringing at 5 towers with a pub lunch. At one tower we had an all George Family band.

At Christmas Sheila & David Prest kindly hosted our annual ringers' supper at Old Dixies. A grand feast! Unfortunately one of our ringers was spending Christmas in Australia so could not join in, but she was able to ring at the Swan Tower, Perth and sent pictures back to make us envious.

All our activities can be seen at <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk>.

Sunday School Report — Teresa Miller (Leader)

The Sunday School has continued to meet during the Family Communion service held every third Sunday. The Pebbles Group (ages 3 to 7) has met in the Choir Vestry and the Rocks Group (ages 8 to 11) has continued to benefit from the use of the Ringing Floor. We merged the groups just once, in August, because of the anticipated lower attendance. The theme for each Sunday has generally reflected that of the main service, adapted for each age group.

The numbers of children in the Pebbles Group has remained steady with the average attendance being 14 per Sunday, matching that for 2012. The average attendance for the Rocks Group increased from 6 in 2012 to 9 in 2013.

One of the special events of the year was the Sunday School's performance of the Nativity during the Christmas Eve Crib Service. This year's cast comprised 27 Sunday School children. The support of parents in preparing and rehearsing for this was greatly appreciated, as was the impressive efforts of the children themselves.

In March the prize giving was held, with 15 children receiving books in recognition of their regular attendance during the previous year.

The Sunday School relies on, and is grateful for the support of a team of enthusiastic helpers to ensure that we always have two DBS -checked adults with each group. The regular helpers are Stephanie Beaumont, Monique Beckett, Helen Catmur, Melissa Green, Tamsyn Hadden, Karoline Mansell, Nicola Thomas and Angie Whiddett, with Dan Whiddett as a reserve helper. We will continue to work together 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 that are part of the Sunday School. Please guide them as they teach your message to the children in our Christian community.

Lord, we pray for all the children that are part of the Sunday School. Please help them to hear, understand and be guided by your word.
Amen.

The Gransdens' Mothers' Union Report
Betty Bates (Branch Leader)
Margaret Dearing (Secretary)

We had an interesting and enjoyable year.

We started with our post Christmas lunch in Abbotsley followed by a journey of thoughts for Lent by Tony Bevens (LLM) in February.

This year we had our deanery Lady Day service in St.Ives followed by a light lunch.

We had a very interesting afternoon when Phillip George showed us the church bells and explained how they worked.

In June the Revd Charles Dixon spoke about signing for the deaf and in July Catherine Griffiths told us about her visit to Kenya. She was wearing an African dress given to her by the people of Kenya.

Members enjoyed a lovely day at Ely Cathedral in September with a tour given by Joan Cameron.

October was our AGM and we also had a deanery service at Somersham taken by our Diocesan Chaplain the Revd Valerie Kilner.

In December we joined with other branches in the deanery at St.Neots for carols and readings for Christmas followed by refreshments.

We support Hunts Refuge and other projects.

We would like to thank Avril Bevens for seven years leading us.

We look forward to two new members joining us and hope we will do our best to serve God and do His will.

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for our families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Foundation Governor at Barnabas Oley School

Rachel Fogg

At the end of 2013 the school had 139 children on roll in 5 classes. In addition to the Headteacher there are 9 members of teaching staff (5 of them part-time), 12 teaching assistants, 2 members of administrative staff, 2 caterers (employed by the County Catering Service) and a caretaker. There are three Foundation governors – Revd Furlong is ex officio, I am appointed by the PCCs of the churches in Great and Little Gransden and Mrs Liz McLaughlin is appointed by the churches in Abbotsley and Waresley.

In the last year I have attended 2 full Governing Body meetings per term and also at least two Committee meetings (I sit on the Curriculum and Personnel Committees). Attendance at Governing Body meetings is good and many of the other governors are also members of the church in the villages. I am the link governor for Modern Foreign Languages and RE, making at least one formal visit annually. The school has recently introduced the new Agreed RE Curriculum which is being received with enthusiasm by staff and children.

Revd Furlong continues to share in the life of the school by taking Assembly regularly and by supporting the staff and parents. The school takes part in events run by the Diocese, including the Diocesan Schools' Days and the Bishops' Lent challenge. The school and the church have worked together on the visits of the Watoto choir.

The school had an Ofsted inspection in November 2013 and came out with an overall judgement of 'good'. A copy of the report may be requested from the school, or read here, <http://www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk/Our+School/Ofsted+and+Parent+View>. By the time of the annual meeting the school will also have had its church school inspection, scheduled for Monday 10 March 2014.

The school welcomes contact with members of the church in the village. 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, governors, pupils and families. Please pray for the application to extend the school kitchen to allow it to become a production kitchen in time for the introduction of free school meals for all infant class children. Please also pray for the school's financial health as Cambridgeshire continues to struggle with its low Government funding.

Some of our activities during the year recorded in pictures

