

Some of our activities during the year recorded in pictures



Bell ringing practice in September
& Victoria receives her membership
certificate.

Chocolate
Extravaganza
March 15



Norwich
Cathedral



The Choir on Music Sunday
& Nadine with Bishop John Flack at the cathedral
after receiving her Dean's Award for music



Scouts lead All Age Worship in December



Pilgrims in Spain en-route to
Santiago de Compostella



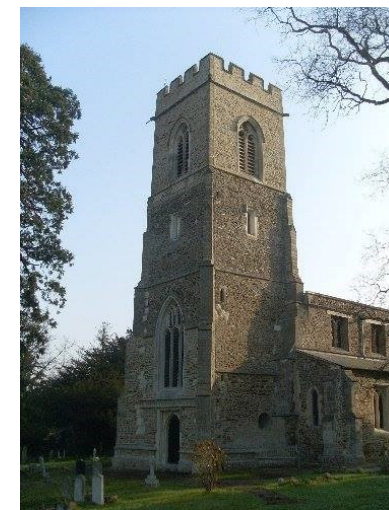
Gt Gransden & Lt Gransden
church fetes



Loom Bands at
the October
All Age Worship

The Parish Churches of Great Gransden and Little Gransden

The Annual Report for 2014



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 2014 to 31st March 2015

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

At the last APCM the school had just had its church school inspection. The whole school community was delighted that the overall judgement for the inspection was Outstanding in all categories and relates to the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church school. You can read the report here <http://www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk/Our+School/SIAMS+Reports>. Many congratulations to Mrs Smith, the headteacher, and her team!

At the end of 2014 the school had 130 children on roll in 5 classes, a little down on the previous year. The reduction in numbers and the continuing low funding of Cambridgeshire schools has made the Governors concentrate hard on financial control. The school has been very fortunate that the PTA continues to support the school by raising large sums of money and thanks to this in the last year the school has finally completed the purchase of a set of iPads for use in the classroom.

The school is involved in many activities outside the classroom, singing in the O2 arena, putting on very ambitious school productions, working towards International and Eco-Schools awards and taking part in local sports events.

The full Governing Body meets twice a term with Committee meetings (Curriculum, Finance, Personnel) happening in between the full meetings. At one of each term's meetings the Governors undertake a 'learning walk' when they are shown and discuss an element of school life relevant to the current school development plan. We were delighted this year when the school successfully applied to be a feeder school for Comberton Village College.

Revd Furlong continues to share in the life of the school by taking Assembly regularly and by supporting the staff and parents. She also 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.

A number of members of the congregation work in the school or volunteer as parent helpers. 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, governors, pupils and families. Please pray especially for the new chair of Governors, Mr John Petre, who has recently taken office. Please pray that the school may offer all its children a secure start in their educational life.

The Gransdens' Mothers' Union Report **Betty Bates (Branch Leader)**

We started the year with our post Christmas lunch at the Duncombe Arms, followed by a talk in February by Tony Bevens (LLM) about how to keep Lent.

In March we went for a walk at Anglesey Abbey and we had a Lady Day service in Ely Cathedral followed by lunch. In April Nita March showed us how to arrange flowers, which gave an opportunity for some members to have a go.

In May we welcomed Canon Paul Duffet, who gave us a talk about Bishop McKensie. In June Margaret Martin told us about a Jewish wedding which she attended, and also showed us some pictures.

In July Joan Cameron gave us a interesting talk on "Being a Vicar's Wife"

In Septembers we had a Deanery service in Gt.Gransden church, taken by Tony Bevens. Our speaker was Susan Baker, our Diocesan President. She told us about Kigali in Rwanda, which is an Ely Diocesan Link.

Our AGM took place in October and in November Mrs Doris Bilton told us about the fourth Wise Man.

We finished the year with carols and readings followed by lunch, by kind invitation from the St.Neots Branch.

Two new members joined us during the year, Kay Feltwell and Anita March. We are hoping to have two more members in 2015.

We support Hunts Refuge, AFIA and other projects. I hope we will serve God and his people and we celebrate 125 years in our Diocese this year.

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.

Priest in Charge Report - The Rev'd Catharine Furlong

"We are pilgrims on a Journey"

Indeed we are all on the road, some starting out, some like to sprint, others taking a longer time as we come away from our own self – preoccupations to coming to know more of God in our lives.

Various Parish Events over the past year ie "Walking the Way of St James" to Santiago de Compostella, attending Choral Evensong in Norwich Cathedral and Looking at Paintings in the National Gallery have given experiences to develop our daily walk with God and our personal spiritual Pilgrimage.

This Report offers me an opportunity to thank those who have assisted us in this way within our Group of Parishes; Tony Bevens our Licensed Lay Minister for his preaching and teaching; Sheila Thompson, Janice Brown and Sheila George as Authorised Lay Ministers respectively for their Pastoral Care to Baptism Families, the Elderly and for the Choir and all the Music in our Worship. I would also wish to thank the Churchwardens Rachel Fogg in Great Gransden and Nick Wareham and Sheila George in Little Gransden who have offered continual dedicated and committed Service to the Churches and Communities.

This year Donald Lester is standing down as Church Treasurer of Lt Gransden after thirty one years. We do thank him for all he has done in a most faithful way.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the life of the Churches both seen and unseen.

"I will hold the Christ light for you"

I would also like to thank those who have acted as Chaplaincy Volunteers at Hinchbrook Hospital bringing patients to the Chapel for Sunday Services. The care, consideration and comfort shown to those who are sick has made a difference and does indeed affect ourselves as we reach out to others.

*"We are travellers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load"*

We pray that God will be with us, to direct us as we travel forward both individually and as a Group of Parishes. May He help us to care and encourage one another, enabling the Gifts He has given to each one of us to be developed; all of this in order to build His Kingdom in this place.

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 2014 to April 2015 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong

Church Warden: Mrs Rachel Fogg - Vice Chairperson

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
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)

The Sunday School has continued to meet during the Family Communion service held every third Sunday. The Pebbles (ages three to seven) have met in the Choir Vestry and the Rocks (ages eight to eleven) have used the Ringing Floor. During just one service (August) the two groups combined due to the reduced numbers caused by holidays.

The average attendance for the Pebbles group for the year was eleven children, varying from nine to fifteen. For the Rocks group the average attendance was eight, ranging from four to twelve. (In 2013 the averages were fourteen for Pebbles and nine for Rocks).

One of the highlights of the year was the Sunday School's performance of the Nativity during the Christmas Eve Crib Service. This year's cast included thirty two children; their efforts were much appreciated as was the support of parents in the preparation and rehearsing.

The prize-giving took place at the June service. Twenty two children were presented with books in recognition of their regular attendance during the previous year.

The theme for each Sunday reflects that of the main service, adapted to suit each age group. The children report on what they have discussed at the close of the service. This helps to reinforce the message of the day; it also encourages and recognises the children's participation as members of the congregation. There is always a take home sheet as a reminder of the theme and to share with families.

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 during 2014 have been Stephanie Beaumont, Monique Beckett, Helen Catmur, Melissa Green, Tamsyn Hadden, Karoline Mansell, Nicola Thomas and Angie Whiddett, with Dan Whiddett acting 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.

Bell Ringers' Report — Sheila George (Tower Captain)

Thursday night practices at Great Gransden are lively occasions where all (aged from 12 to over 60) take part on an equal basis. There are not many activities where children and adults can join in equally. Sometimes we field both youngsters and mature teams to liven up the competition. Our practices continue to attract visitors; Phillip has taught our grandchildren Megan and Martyn from Littleport to ring and friends from Swavesey are also regular attenders. We are one of the few practices in the area where training is given. We are always encouraging all our ringers to move on and even our adults are awarded badges and certificates when reaching certain goals.

We can usually ring all 6 bells for services and appreciate the support we receive from Catharine as she climbs up to the ringing room during service ringing.

In May Phillip and I organized the team that represented the Huntingdon District in the Annual Striking Competition held at Longstanton. I am pleased to report that we won. Both of us continue to play important roles within the Ely Diocesan Association of Bellringers. We are also involved with supporting St Neots tower at their practices on Friday evenings where Gransden ringers occasionally attend.

Phillip and I attended an Integrated Teacher Training System (ITTS) Stage 2 training course for bellringers in Suffolk in the autumn where we obtained tips and advice for teaching bell control and method ringing. We are constantly putting this into practice and during 2015 are holding Saturday morning workshops.

Eight quarter peals (at least taking about 45 minutes) were rung.

A date touch of 2014 changes to welcome the New Year

2 Huntingdon District monthly quarters

1 for Easter and Matthew George's first quarter peal

1 by the local band for Evening Prayer

1 for the Garden Gander

A 60th birthday compliment to David & Sheila Prest and wedding compliment to Matthew & Michelle George

1 just for fun!

The ringers played a part in the Revellers' summer production, ringing the bells half muffled as the audience moved between scenes.

In October we joined with Swavesey ringers for our annual joint outing to Northamptonshire.

Sheila & David Prest kindly hosted our annual ringers' Christmas supper at Old Dixies again when we managed to sit everyone round tables for a 3 course meal.

All our activities can be seen at <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> or on the church Facebook page.

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) (*until Jan 2015*), Alison Wareham (*from Jan 2015*), Louise Wigan (Waresley), Amy James (Abbotsley).

Electoral Roll—Mark Doggett

The electoral roll on 5th April 2014 indicated 100 members, 94 of whom were resident and 6 non-resident.

The revision of the electoral roll on 18th March 2015 indicated that there were 101 members, of whom 93 were resident and 8 non-resident. The electoral roll changes since the 5th April 2014 are 2 leavers (1 moved away, 1 deceased) and 3 joiners (1 resident and 2 non-resident)

Sidespeople (Both Parishes)

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

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

Churchyard—Rob Chignell

Last Spring it was agreed we should grass over 50% of the two flower beds either side of the church path. This has been done and Rudbeckia were planted in the remaining beds plus tulips and wallflowers for Spring colour.

The grass has been cut by the same team as last year, Barry Girling, Nick Foster, Bob Cross and Julian Miller. They do a superb job and we owe them a big vote of thanks as the church yard always looks very smart. Thanks also to Mike Capps who sprays weed killer around the church building and grave stones.

The area behind the church and the bank however, which has to be strimmed because it is so rough, did not get the attention it needs. The person who does this part of the church yard was temporarily disabled. Please be assured it will get better attention this year.

We are lucky to have such a lovely churchyard with plenty of bulbs coming through at the time of writing this report.

Safeguarding Report Phillip George—Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Teresa Miller and I attended the Safeguarding Co-ordinators workshop at Ely on the 22nd March 2014. Paul Evans, the recently appointed Diocesan Secretary gave an introductory talk to delegates giving his support and encouragement to the safeguarding work of the Diocesan Office and parish co-ordinators. The workshop was followed by a service in the cathedral led by Bishop Stephen when he spoke of the importance of our role in the church and the wider world by being vigilant to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

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

A recent improvement in the process of DBS checks is the facility to enable online application. This is a much easier and quicker process for all concerned.

Rachel Fogg has attended level 1 safeguarding training at Ely.

There are currently 17 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

Again constancy seems to be the word that describes our Choir. The support they give the church, not just in the singing, but in many aspects of our church life is much appreciated. Take away the Choir and life of our church would be much poorer. Thank you all.

The biggest change during the last year was Victor's mobility. The dark nights and winter are a problem and I have banned him from going out after dark, so I now take Choir Practice every week from my keyboard. When other activities permit Elaine and Don help with accompanying. This is not an ideal situation as I am unable to direct and play and we are rehearsing without the person actually playing on Sundays. Due to Victor's indispositions I have had to play at short notice on a couple of occasions (including Christmas Day), often sight reading the music.

Unfortunately one of our trebles Elizabeth Pilcher from Eltisley leaves us at the beginning of 2015 due to her family's move north. I understand she has found a new choir to join. As we use the RSCM training scheme this can be transferred to her new church.

The RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme continues. Congratulations to Nadine who was successful in the Dean's Award examination and received her medal at the Choir Festival at Ely Cathedral in May 2014. I hope to be able to report more successes next year after the examinations in April 2015.

We have continued to attend the Group Services at Waresley as a Choir. This often involves singing with an organist who has never rehearsed with us, and also transporting all our heavy hymnbooks (and hymn board) over to Waresley as they cannot supply music books.

Special Events for the Choir during the year:

Our second belated Christmas Safari Supper in February 2014

'The Cross of Christ' - the devotional service on Good Friday

Diocesan Choir Festival in May at Ely Cathedral

Music Sunday in June celebrated at the Family Communion at Great

The Revellers' production in July

'God's Seasons' – a special service of music and readings for Harvest

Christmas celebrations – always a busy singing time

Finally a verse from one of the hymns we often sing. Does Anyone know which one it is?

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

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 2014 the Joint PCC met on 15 January and 10 September and, in addition to arrangements for future services, the main discussions have focused on improving communications within the parish; ensuring the church is always welcoming and that services are at accessible times. The church website is much appreciated as a valuable resource for essential information and the church Facebook page has enjoyed early success, even exceeding the website in the number of hits.

PCC Meetings

Great Gransden PCC held two meetings on 12 March and 2 July to discuss matters mainly relating to fabric, finance and administration.

The PCC approved the work required to undertake the Quinquennial repairs recommended in the 2011 inspection and the removal of the two front pews on the north side of nave. The total cost, estimated at £28,000, includes approximately £2,500 for the removal of the pews. The necessary approvals and finance in the form of grants and loans are now in place for the work to begin in spring this year – thanks to the energy and expertise of our churchwarden, Rachel Fogg. The additional space in the nave will provide greater flexibility for worship and church events.

This project has been prioritised by the PCC for future fund raising activity. Revised drawings are also now in hand for the proposed disabled ramp.

An extraordinary meeting of the PCC was held on 30 November 2014 to discuss the proposed suspension of presentation in the benefice by the Bishop of Ely for a further five years. This suspension would extend beyond the present period of ten years the removal of our patron's rights to appoint a priest of its choice. The PCC's response was not unanimous, but after extensive discussion it was decided to accept the suspension with great reluctance, mainly on the grounds that it wished to avoid raising barriers at present when future plans were being made on reorganisation within the Deanery and Diocese.

Annual Reports

In addition to the reports on finance and fabric, the various reports found here summarize 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 2014					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
5 th	All Age Worship 11.00am	39	12	51	N/A
12 th	No service				
19 ^h	Family Communion with Baptism 9.30am	89	40	129	63
26 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	8	0	8	N/A

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas 2014				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day 9.30am Family Communion	95	25	120	76
Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service	202	97	299	N/A
Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion	75	2	77	72
Christmas Day	No service			

Other Data for 2014		Adults	Children
Average attendance at Sunday services other than at major festivals		60	20
Baptisms		8	
Weddings		0	
Marriage service of prayer & dedication		1	
Funerals		5	

On behalf of Great Gransden PCC

Rev. Catharine Furlong
Priest in Charge

Iain Strath
Secretary to PCC

All Age Worship Report — Tamsyn Hadden

Another year of successful All Age Worship has passed, with a huge variety of themes, activities and ideas being included in our services.

The constant challenge of presenting God's word and sharing his message in new and inspiring ways while trying to engage the whole congregation from the youngest to the oldest and all ages in between is very demanding. However the committee are an endlessly resourceful group of people who month after month come up with exciting and thought provoking activities and addresses. During the last twelve months we have tried to introduce a theme running through successive services; this began as a succession of four services based around the idea of Mission as welcome. Then in the autumn we had a series of four services involving a craft activity and it was generally felt that these services fostered a real sense of community with all generations mixing and exchanging ideas.

Our All Age Worship is a time when we should challenge ourselves as a congregation and expect to be taken by surprise from time to time. Witness our service in May 2014 when we served coffee before the service instead of after as a way of emphasising our welcome and our meeting together as a Christian family. Or consider our October service when we all went out into the churchyard to appreciate the beauty of God's creation before returning to make a fabulous collage as a community together. We also welcome and learn from the young people who kindly take over our service from time to time during the year. Huge thanks go to the Scouts and Brownies who bring their own unique ideas and enthusiasms to our worship and to their leaders, Chris Elwood, Dan Whiddett, Nadine Santus and all the Owls.

Due to family and other commitments our committee of service leaders is slowly diminishing and so looking forward to next year we need to engage and involve even more individuals and groups into our service planning. I thank all the committee, readers and intercessors for their participation and thoughtful support for our worship. We pray for God's guidance during 2015 to bring new members and ideas to our worship and widen our outreach within our group of parishes and beyond. Amen

Mission & Outreach Report (continued from page 20)

Exciting plans for 2015 start with a Fairtrade Fortnight "Chocolate Extravaganza" on the 15th March, Bluebell Mindful Meander on 18th April and thanks to Jenny, Family Music workshop in May and Bring and Sing in October, both under the leadership of Dr Douglas Coombes M.B.E.!

Mission & Outreach Report — Helen Catmur

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. The Mission and Outreach sub-committee are:

Great Gransden: Helen Catmur (chair) and Jenny Wilkinson

Little Gransden: Alison Wareham

Waresley: Louise Wigan

Abbotsley: Amy James

Tamsyn Hadden was the representative for Little Gransden for a long time and a valued member of our team, but had to step down from the sub-committee at the end of 2014 due to other commitments. We welcome Alison Wareham as the representative from Little Gransden. We support charities caring for others in prayer and financially, whilst encouraging and nurturing fellowship within our parishes. This is one of the few committees where each of our parishes is represented.

The main charities we support are:

US (United Society) They are a mission society who works through local churches to empower local communities and we now support the work of Reverend Nicholas Wheeler with the poor in the City of God Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mind in Cambridgeshire This organisation "supports local people in their recovery from mental health issues, promotes wellbeing and campaigns against stigma & discrimination." On 14 September, Sarah Hughes, Mind's Chairperson, explained about their work at a service in Waresley. We did a Mindful Meander following this, with a lunch of baked potatoes in the village hall to raise awareness of MIND.

Traidcraft The monthly stall at Great Gransden continues, raising £50 - £80 each month. In February 2014 we ran a fun "Go Bananas" event in Great Gransden to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight which involved the community and raised £172.21. Fairtrade stalls were at Great Gransden Church Fete and at Little Gransden Autumn Bazaar.

Christian Aid In 2014, In Christian Aid Week, Great and Little Gransden raised £1149.10 of which (£566.02) was gift aided. Christian Aid Week is 10-16 May 2015. Christian Aid resources were used in the parish during Advent.

Last year our parishes also had a variety of speakers from numerous charities such as the Children's Society Christingle service, Church Army speaker and Advent Posada round the villages. In addition, stamps were collected for Moggerhanger Hospice and clothes for Jimmy's Night Shelter.

(Continued on page 21)

Treasurer's Report — Great Gransden — Andrew Fogg

As of 31 Dec 2014, the General Account held £5523; on 31 Dec 2013, the balance was £3601, so a substantial increase on the year, largely due to a net influx of funding for the Quinquennial works.

Neglecting that funding there was a modest deficit on the year, largely because once again no Gift Aid claim was made. The Treasurer has signed up to the HMRC online claim system and (finally!) claimed for 2012, 2013 and 2014 in February 2015 (and the money has been received!).

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

The "2014" donations to Mind In Cambridgeshire and US (USPG) were made in early March 2015 after receipt of the Gift Aid funds, £400 in each case.

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

Ministry Share increased to £15,800 (from £15,500). The insurance premium decreased slightly relative to 2013 (£3,765 vs £3,852) but will increase again in 2015. Heating oil prices in 2014 were much the same as the previous year (but have moderated somewhat in 2015).

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

A further contribution to the organist's honoraria in 2014 and 2015 (£1,000) was taken from the John & Bessie Brown Fund in 2014.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant. Funds for the works arising from the Quinquennial inspection will be held in the Restoration Fund until needed. Some progress has been made in raising the necessary money (enough to allow the more urgent works to proceed) but more needs to be done.

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

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 cut the grass, maintain the churchyard and clean the church week in week out.

Small works—The south chancel downpipe has been replaced. This work was the subject of a grant of 94.35% of the ex-VAT cost from Clare College for which we are extremely grateful.

At the end of 2014 the architect advised having the chest (where the leaflets sit) professionally inspected as part of the left-hand lid was crumbling badly. Tankerdale Ltd (specialist restorers) visited in early 2015 and have sent their report, dating the chest to the late mediaeval period and recommending restoration at a total cost of £1740 + VAT. The PCC is considering this report.

The organ has been tuned twice this year. It is usually tuned every 6 months. Fire extinguishers have been serviced as has the boiler.

Faculty application for pew removal and external repairs. The Faculty was granted in July to allow the church to remove two front pews at the east end of the north side of the nave, retaining the oak frontal and also to allow the repairs to the exterior of the chancel East window and various repointing and repair works to the North porch parapets and the parapets of the North and South clerestory roofs. This work will start on 7 April 2015!

The PCC gratefully acknowledges the support of the Poores' Land Charity, the Jack Patston Trust, the Allchurches Trust, Clare College and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CHCT) towards these works. In addition to a grant CHCT has generously also made available a £10,000 interest-free loan (to be repaid over four years). Therefore although the funds are in hand to undertake these works, fundraising to pay the loan back will continue into 2015 and beyond.

I would like to record particular thanks to Rob Chignell for supporting me in my dealings with the architect and builder.

Please pray for the successful completion of the work and 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, Betty Bates and I are all members of Diocesan Synod, Betty and I being elected by the Deanery Synod and up for re-election in 2015. 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 synod debated the legislation on women in the episcopate and heard a presentation on the proposed link with Rwanda. Synod also received information about the Pilling report process. In June the Chancellor of the Diocese attended the Synod and spoke about his work. There was also a report on Diocesan Finance and the presentation of the accounts. At the October synod the presidential address was given by Bishop Louis of Kigali, our link Diocese in Rwanda, there was a presentation on the Diocesan strategy and round-table discussions and the 2015 Diocesan budget and the new ministry share arrangements for 2016 were presented.

I have enjoyed my 3 years on Diocesan Synod although I still find the proceedings, which are run on parliamentary lines, rather strange. The round-table discussions, which are increasingly part of Synod's meetings, offer more of an opportunity to contribute to what is going on. It is the opportunity to meet people from other parts of the Diocese which is so valuable as it helps us to look beyond our own narrow parochial views.

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ in our parishes and in our lives outside them.



Preparing the Advent wreath in Gt. Gransden

Joint Parish Reports

St. Neots Deanery Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

There has been some reorganisation in St Neot's Deanery this year with the addition of the parish of Little Staughton from St Alban's Diocese to the Great Staughton and Hail Weston group and the move of Southoe to join Diddington, Little Paxton and Great Paxton.

Synod met 5 times in 2014. Aside from the regular business of the meetings – Deanery events, reports from Diocesan and General Synod and finance – we have discussed the following:

The Church Growth Project; various ministries in the church, including the roles of churchwardens, pastoral assistants, licensed lay ministers (Readers) and ordinands; the finance of the Diocese and the new ministry share arrangements; dignity at work and the new Diocesan anti-bullying policy; the Diocesan strategy.

We are fortunate to have a member of General Synod as our Lay Chair, so we have heard first-hand about all the developments in General Synod including the vote to approve women bishops.

In 2014 the Deanery again met its Ministry Share commitment in full and assented to a 2% increase in the Ministry Share for 2015. The new Ministry Share arrangements which will come into force in 2016 look to be calculated on a less complicated and fairer basis but are likely to lead to some challenging requests.

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.

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.

We thank the parishes for this opportunity to serve and pray that sharing our joys and concerns across the Deanery will encourage all of us in our mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

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 2014 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

Representative on the Deanery Synod:
Mrs Betty Bates *(elected until 2017)*

Elected Members: Mrs Janice Brown
Mrs Suzanne Lawrence
Mr Donald Lester - Treasurer
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)

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 represented Little Gransden on this committee until January 2015 and Alison Wareham from January 2015.

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2014 there were 31 persons on the church Electoral Roll of whom 12 were not resident in the parish. As at the date of this report there are 30 persons on the Roll of whom 12 are not resident in the parish. The Electoral Roll Officer is Ian Ramsay.

Fabric Report — Little Gransden — Sheila George

Last year I reported that urgent work is needed to the East Chancel gable. This has still to take place and has been delayed because of the lack of funds. Hopefully it will be completed during 2015. However because of our bats there is only a short time period when this can happen.

We have again replaced glass cruets during the year due to breakage and 2 LED reading lights have been donated – one at the lectern and one at the organ.

Various essential tests have been carried out including testing of the lightning conductor and PAT testing of all our portable electrical goods. Some items were found not be safe and have been disposed of.

Thanks must go to all those who clean, look after the brass, arrange flowers, keep the churchyard tidy and all those who support our fund raising events. Unfortunately we have lost some of our regular helpers and no new volunteers have come forward despite advertising.

The maintenance of our ancient building is always at the forefront of our minds and PCC meetings. Once the work above is completed we shall have depleted our Restoration Fund and we shall need to move onto the next work that is required to keep our building standing. Any improvements such as toilet, kitchen, water, comfortable chairs, reliable sound system, decorating etc. are all a pipedream.



The Chancel Screen in Lt. Gransden

Treasurer's Report — Little Gransden — Donald Lester

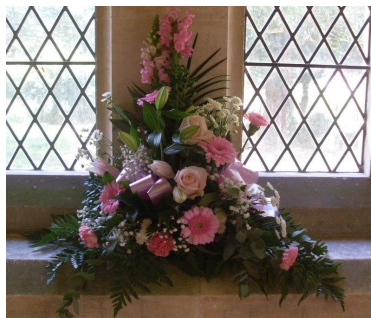
The years 2010—2012 inclusive were dominated and somewhat distorted by both income and expenditure relating to the tower restoration project. 2013 was a more normal year with only minimal specific fund raising for fabric restoration projects and 2014 proved to be somewhat similar.

2015 will be different again with expenditure of approximately £30,000 on repairs to the chancel gable and rainwater goods. Fortunately the PCC believes that a major grant may be available to meet a large proportion of the costs. In addition some minor fund raising took place during 2014 and further fund raising is taking place at the present time.

In 2013 there was a shortfall of just over £2000 on the general running costs of the church. For 2014 there has been a further shortfall of over £1700 — slightly less than for 2013 and fortunately below the budgeted shortfall of over £2,600.

Active steps are being taken to increase income and this will be a major area of effort during 2015.

Further information on all aspects of the parish's finances will be given in the statement of accounts for 2014 which is being issued separately.



Lt. Gransden Church Porch

Secretary's Report, Little Gransden — Stephen Sullivan

Review of the Year

The PCC has met three times during the year and once immediately after the Annual Joint Parochial Church Meeting in order to elect officers.

In connection with the grant application to Amey Cespa it became clear that the parish needed an Equal Opportunities Policy, a Conflict of Interest Policy and a Public Access and Amenity Policy. These were drawn up with advice from the Diocesan Secretary, and approved by the Standing Committee in July 2014. They join the Health & Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Policy that already exist.

The application to Amey Cespa was made on 2 Jan 15 and we have been offered £17,000 towards the cost of the project. Thanks are expressed to the sub-committee of Nicholas Wareham, Stephen Sullivan and Donald Lester, who handled the application, and to our parishioner Jane Holland, who urged us to make the application in the first place. We are grateful to the Gransden Brownies, the vice-chairman of LG Parish Council and to the Evergreens, who wrote letters of support for Little Gransden church in connection with our application.

Regular Fire and Health & Safety inspections of the church building have now begun, and the results and recommendations are communicated to the Parish Council.

When invited to respond, the PCC unanimously resolved to inform the Diocese that we did not wish the Suspension of Presentation to LG Church to continue for a further five years. The Suspension has therefore ceased temporarily while we await to hear further from the Diocese.

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 very 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).

(Continued on page 14)

(Secretary's Report, Lt Gransden cont from page 13)

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

Revd. Catharine Furlong
Priest in Charge

Dr Stephen Sullivan
Secretary to PCC

Church Attendance — LITTLE GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2014					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
5 th	Holy Communion 8.00am	11	0	11	11
12 th	Harvest Festival 4.00pm	59	10	69	N/A
19 th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	7	0	7	N/A
26 th	Family Communion 9.30am	33	2	35	31

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	70	14	84	69

The average attendance at Sunday services, other than at services on major festivals, throughout 2014					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
8.00	Holy Communion	10	0	10	12
9.30	Family Communion	28	3	31	11
10.00	Group Family Communion	40	5	45	3
4.00	Christingle and Carol Services	72	29	101	3
6.00	Evening Prayer	5	0	5	8
Overall Average Attendance		21	3	25	
Total Number of Services					37

Weekly attendances on Fridays during October 2014	
3rd	No service
10th	No service
17th	No service
24th	Cancelled due to illness
31st	No service

Other Data for 2014	
Baptisms	0
Weddings	0
Blessings of Marriage	0
Thanksgiving for Birth of a Child	0
Funeral with internment	2
Funeral with cremation	2