

## Gallery for 2016



Sheila Prest and Hazel Pettit with their Dean's Awards ribbons



Bell Ringers on their Outing to Durham



Help with the Mission in Puppetry



Result of lead stolen from the roof



Members of our churches take part in the Gransden Reveller's production



Making the Advent Ring



Spring



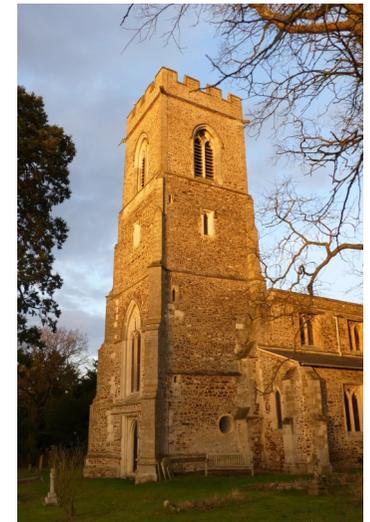
Walkers on the St.Oswald's Way pilgrimage

# The Parish Churches of Great Gransden and Little Gransden

## The Annual Report for 2016



Gt Gransden - May 2016



Lt Gransden - February 2017

### 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 2016 to 31st March 2017



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Barnabas Oley is a smaller than average primary school and the 138 pupils are taught in five mixed age classes. The school serves the village of Great Gransden and nearby villages.

The recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools report stated that the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Barnabas Oley as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Religious education has a high profile in the school evidenced by the Deputy as subject leader, by the high quality of RE displays and its strong focus within the school development plan.

Collective worship is regarded by the whole school community as a central part of each day. It is paramount in reinforcing Christian values and extremely important to staff and pupils who regard it as affirming a sense of the school's whole community and Christian ethos. Many pupils mention collective worship as the best part of the day. It is visibly a very enjoyable experience and a joy to be present.

Results at the School have remained consistently high for many years and governors are very proud of the achievements of all the children and staff. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATS show that pupils exceed the Cambridgeshire and National averages in almost all areas. The Government now lays greater store by Pupil Progress than just the headline figures and in that area the School has been consistently good.

The School's link with Clare College, Cambridge through the School's founder, Revd Barnabas Oley, vicar of the parish and Fellow of the College is very important to the School. In the spring of 2016, seven former pupils of the School who have gone on to University, received book grants from the Oley Trust at Clare College. At the Founder's Day service The Very Reverend Peter Judd, acting Dean of Clare in 2015, led the service at St Bartholomew's. The close links with our church also include services at Harvest, Mother's Day and a Christmas Carol service.

The priorities for action in the period to July 2017 are:

- Implementing a robust approach to the teaching of spelling and grammar to further improve the quality of writing.
- Reviewing teaching plans and assessment of science across the school.
- Ensuring outstanding behaviours are being developed and embedded.

The school always welcomes contact with members of the villages.  
[www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk).

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

We have 12 subscribing members. The Branch would like to thank Margaret Dearing for her devoted work to MU and the church and wish her happiness in her new home. The branch expressed its gratitude to Tony Bevens who became Acting Treasurer from January and was appointed Treasurer at the AGM, October 2016. Officers for the Triennium remain: Avril Bevens - Branch Leader, Deanery Secretary; Jeanette Carew - Secretary; Gina Presland - Assistant Treasurer, Deanery Treasurer.

The year began with our Annual New Year's lunch at Waresley. Members attended Quiet days at Milton, Deanery Services at Great Gransden, led by A. J. Bevens *BA. LLM* (Lady day) and at Somersham (Harvest Celebration) led by our chaplain Rev. Valerie Kilner. We were represented at the Spring Festival in Milton. Members attending the Deanery Christmas Carols and lunch at St. Neots, met representatives from The Huntingdon Women's Refuge, who expressed appreciation for donations made by villagers and Branches. Local MU members again supported Nursery tents at Wimpole and the Gransden Show. MU Ely Diocese was delighted to receive the generous donation from the Gransden Show Committee.

Speakers for the year: Tony Bevens gave enlightening and informative talks on "Faith in Today's World", and introduced Advent through a Question/Answer quiz and music. Beryl Waterson spoke about her Postcard pilgrimages, and Catherina Griffiths gave an interesting slideshow/talk about her journey through China. This was an Open meeting. We discovered how well (or not), we knew our churches, through jig-saw puzzles. Avril related the history of each completed jig-saw. The Mothering Sunday service was led by Avril and Tony.

Social events: Another "Mystery tour in Mick's Green machine", visiting the Newmarket Stud, The Hat store, Fordham, Willingham Auction centre, and lunch at Fordham garden centre. Our grateful thanks to Mick and Jean. In August, members and village supporters enjoyed Afternoon Tea in the Bevens' garden, and at the Midsummer Tea party in the Bishop's garden, Ely.

Charities. We continue to support the Sick Children's Appeal at Addenbrookes (Shoe boxes), Prem Baby Units at Addenbrookes and Peterborough, Huntingdon and Cambridge Women's Refuge, AFIA - Away from it all holidays for distressed and disadvantaged families; and Littlehey prisoners' families. We express our sincere thanks to all villagers who contribute to our donations. Thank you.

## **Priest in Charge Report – The Rev'd Catharine Furlong**

Welcome to all to this Annual Parochial Church Meeting and those who have written Reports, highlighting the previous twelve months of our Churches' life together with our focussed hopes and aspirations for the coming year.

In looking back over last year I would like to thank all those who have assisted in the Mission and Ministry of these parishes both seen and unseen; to Tony Bevens our Licensed Lay Minister for his teaching and preaching; to our Churchwarden in Great Gransden Church, Rachel Fogg who is retiring from Office, for her hard work and commitment to the Church over many years and Assistant Churchwardens Iain Strath and Rob Chignell; also to Nick Wareham and Betty Bates, Churchwardens of Little Gransden Church and the Church Council Members of both Parishes; also my thanks are offered to our Authorised Lay Ministers; Sheila George for Music, Janice Brown and Sheila Thompson for Pastoral Care. I do indeed thank the various organists who have played for our Worship over the past months, the Choir, Flower Arrangers, Church Cleaners. School Staff, Youth Leaders, the Mission and Outreach Committee to name but a few Organizations to be found in our Parishes.

Parishioners have kindly been assisting patients in Hinchingbrooke Hospital, bringing them to Sunday Worship in the Chapel during the past year to which thanks are due. Also to those who sung Christmas Carols in the Treatment Centre for day patients.

It was a privilege for some of us to Walk on Pilgrimage following The St Oswald's Way to Holy Island, Northumberland, reminding us of the Northern Saints, St Bede, St Aidan and St Cuthbert, always travelling to unknown horizons believing that God was leading them to bear witness to the Gospel, encouraging and setting us the example to us to be willing to dare to begin new tasks under His guidance, opening up new possibilities within our habits and routines.

May we pray this coming year for God's continued blessing and leading us forward as His Pilgrim People and so become by His grace, more and more truly Churches inspired by God's passion for the world and its' people.

**Great and Little Gransden Churches Website**

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

## 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 2016 to April 2017 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong

Churchwarden: Mrs Rachel Fogg - Vice Chairperson  
Assistant Churchwardens: Mr. Rob Chignell & Mr. Iain Strath

Representatives on Deanery Synod:  
Mrs. Rachel Fogg

Elected Members: Mr Rob Chignell  
Mr Guy Davis  
Mr George Donovan  
Mr Andrew Fogg - Treasurer  
Mr Mark Gostick  
Mr Andy Greaves  
Mrs Jane Middleton  
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 continued to meet every third Sunday throughout 2016 in two groups - "Pebbles" (ages 3 to 7, meeting in the choir vestry), and "Rocks" (ages 8 to 11, using the Ringing Floor).

The number of children attending Sunday School has fallen with increasing competition from Sunday morning sports activities. Excluding August, the average attendance was seven for "Pebbles" and four for "Rocks".

The Annual prize giving took place in June. Thirteen children received a book to reward their attendance over the previous 12 months.

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

The theme for each Sunday reflects that of the main service, adapted to suit each age group. The older children have a more in-depth debate about the issues raised by the Bible text for the week. At the close of the service the children enjoy reporting back on what they have discussed and sharing their take-home activity. This helps to reinforce the theme of the day and encourages and recognises the children's participation as members of the congregation.

The Sunday School depends upon, and much appreciates, the support of its team of helpers to ensure that two DBS-checked adults work with each group. Grateful thanks for their help during 2016 go to Stephanie Beaumont, Sarah Dutton, Monique Beckett, Coral Doggett, Rachel Greaves, Karoline Mansell, Angela Steele and Angie and Dan Whiddett.

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

**Prayer for the Sunday School** Lord, we pray for all the adults in the Sunday School team. Please guide them as they teach your message to the children in our Christian community. May you work through them. Lord, we pray for all the children in the Sunday School. May they hear, understand and be guided by your word as they begin their Christian journey.  
Amen.

## Bell Ringers' Report — David Prest (Deputy Tower Captain)

The ringers are proud and privileged to make their contribution to worship, ringing before Sunday services and also for special festivals and events in the church and village calendar. This included ringing for five weddings, always a joyous occasion, with the opportunity to "fire" the bells. More poignantly, we also rang half muffled for the funeral of Victor Hughes, retired long term organist and bell ringer at Gransden, and for the service celebrating the life of Helen Catmur, who was involved in many aspects of church and village life.

Some of the highlights this year included:

- 🔔 Phillip and Sheila George and Sally Mew ringing handbells at the Crown and Cushion acoustic music afternoon – very well received! This can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/IFrUH1hawI0>
- 🔔 Ringing for the Revellers Time Travellers promenade plays
- 🔔 Ringing before the Church Fete in the garden of Rectory Farmhouse
- 🔔 Ringing as part of the church gift day

Practice on Thursday evenings is always lively and enjoyable, with around ten local ringers, all making good progress in the Learning the Ropes scheme, under the tuition of Sheila and Phillip George. Awards were made to Susanne Autenrieth and Matt Machin who achieved Level 1, and Alasdair Catmur, Andrew Lawrence, Sheila and David Prest Level 3. New ringers of all ages are welcome, training is provided from complete beginners upwards.

Other notable achievements were first quarter peals for Alasdair Catmur (consequently completing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award skills section) and Matt Machin. Altogether there were ten quarter peals, taking us to 250 on the bells, and one handbell quarter peal.

Visiting ringers are always welcome at the tower, this year included ringers from the Faraday Guild, the Roving Ringers and the Rambling Ringers. All remarked on the high standard of facilities and quality of the bells.

The ringers enjoyed several social events, starting with a splendid "Singers and Ringers" summer party, kindly hosted by Phillip and Sheila, and ending with the Christmas party hosted by David and Sheila P. The social highlight was a weekend ringing trip to Durham, including the great privilege of Sunday morning service ringing on the 10 bells at Durham Cathedral. As well as ringing at five churches and one pub, we also visited the Rail museum at Shildon and Beamish open air museum. A rather tiring but very enjoyable weekend!

Full information about the bells and tower activities are reported regularly on the website, <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> Have a look, or even better come and give ringing a try!

## 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, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

### Finance and Fabric Committee

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

Members: as for the PCC

### All Age Worship Planning Group

Meets monthly to plan the services of All Age Worship

Members representing Gt Gransden: Avril Bevens (*part of 2016*), Tony Bevens, Rachel Greaves, Tamsyn Hadden, Teresa Miller, Nadine Santus (*part of 2016*), Angela Steele, Iain Strath.

### Mission and Outreach

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

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

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## Electoral Roll — Mark Doggett

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2016 there were 110 members of whom 103 were resident and 7 non-resident.

As at 26th February 2017 there are 113 members of whom 105 are resident and 8 non-resident.

The electoral roll changes since 6th March 2016 are 3 joiners (2 residential and 1 non-residential).

## Secretary's Report — Great Gransden — Iain Strath

### PCC Meetings

Great Gransden PCC held three meetings on 18 March, 6 July and 8 November to discuss matters mainly relating to fabric, finance and administration.

An attempted theft of the lead on the church roof left part of the roof above the organ exposed to the elements as well as revealing damage to some roof timbers. Whilst the cost of the repairs was partially covered by insurance, additional measures at our own expense were required to prevent any further theft. A new roof alarm was installed together with anti climb paint on the downpipes. To meet the cost of repairs and the alarm system a Gift Day was held in October and successfully raised sufficient funds, along with donations and grants.

Further fundraising activities will be required in the next two years to ensure that the repairs identified in the recent Quinquennial Inspection are carried out and the existing loan from the Cambridge Historic Churches Trust repaid.

Two of our church members – Victor Hughes & Helen Catmur - both of whom had made hugely significant contributions to the life of the church passed away this year.

Victor had recently retired from the long and devoted service he had given as church organist. The energy and commitment Helen gave to the Mission and Outreach activities of the church and community will be sadly missed.

The PCC also acknowledged the vital role that Rachel Fogg has carried out as churchwarden, Foundation Governor & Deanery Synod Representative as she now stands down from these positions. St Bartholomew's has benefited enormously from her energy and expertise, not least in acquiring grants and donations to meet repairs to the church fabric.

Finally, the benefice continues to be enriched by the varied programme of both visits and visitors arranged by our priest, Catharine.

### 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 2016 the Joint PCC met on 19 April and 13 September and, in addition to arrangements for future services, discussion has centred on the meetings for the diocesan strategic consultations and their likely outcomes.  
*(cont on p7)*

## Safeguarding Report Phillip George — Safeguarding Co-ordinator

I completed Level 1 and Level 2 refresher training at Ely in the early part of the year.

New National Church guidelines on safeguarding are to be introduced during 2017. Information received so far has enabled me to carry out a gap analysis of our systems and processes for eventual presentation to the PCCs. Rachel Fogg, Nick Wareham and Sheila George have been involved in the process. The work will be completed once further details and instructions have been received from the Diocese.

I attended the annual Safeguarding Co-ordinators meeting at Huntingdon on the 12th March, presented by Sarah King and Rebecca Boswell from the Diocesan Office. This is an opportunity to meet co-ordinators from other parishes, exchange ideas and to keep up to date with developments in safeguarding policies and procedures.

Sheila and I attended the Bishop's Garden Party in June when we met other members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Bishop Stephen gave a short and encouraging talk about the importance of safeguarding in our churches and affirmed the diocesan commitment to it.

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

There are currently 21 DBS checked volunteers helping in Gt. & Lt. Gransden churches.

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

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## Choir Report — Sheila George — ALM Music

Another busy year. No new members, and we lost Elaine and Lillie Watson.

The biggest change was the appointment of a new organist. After a national advertising campaign David John of Croydon (Cambs) joined us at the beginning of March. However, this has been a brief union as David has been on extended sick leave since September. We have reverted to a rota of visiting organists which again brings the problems of not rehearsing with the organist playing on Sunday. Thanks to Stuart McCarthy (St Neots), Andrew Smith (Gamlingay), Jeremy Hadden, Nick Wareham and Don Airey; also to Lloyd Barnett, organist at St Neots, who has been playing for our practices every Wednesday; without his help, we could not have provided the music we have sung during the last quarter of the year.

At the end of the year we total 21 in number but attendances still fluctuate greatly. Never achieving 100% our highest was 20 for a practice in December, and lowest was 7 for a Sunday morning service at Little in September.

We continue to attend the Group Services at Waresley as a Choir, and this year 2 services at Abbotsley, still transporting all our heavy hymn books (and hymn board) as they cannot supply music books.

The RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme continues. Congratulations to Sheila Prest and Hazel Pettit who were successful in the Dean's Award Examination.

Special Events during the year

- ♪ Tenebrae – the devotional service on Good Friday
- ♪ Deanery Evensong at St Neots with a joint Choir
- ♪ Summer Supper at Nutbells
- ♪ 5 Weddings – 2 were of ex Choristers - all needing extra music
- ♪ Awards Evensong at Ely Cathedral singing with The Girls' Choir and Lay Clerks
- ♪ Advent Carol Service – a new venture with new music, which was well received
- ♪ Christmas celebrations and this year providing more music for the Nativity at the Crib Service.

There was no Choir Festival at Ely this year, and, due to a wedding, we were unable to attend the King's Festival in September.

Another unsettling year, but we continue to go from strength to strength.

*(Joint PCC Meetings cont)*

The future for the present benefice is our major concern in the light of the suspension of presentation rights and the retirement of our priest in charge in 2018.

During 2016 the churchwardens of both parishes have met with the archdeacon and a public meeting was also held on 28 June to which villagers were invited. In addition, churchwardens have met with their counterparts in the Gamlingay parish to explore the ways in which closer communication and the sharing of resources can be achieved in the future under any new parish arrangements.

### Annual Reports

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

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

### Churchyard — Rob Chignell

We are very lucky to have retained our excellent and faithful team of grass cutters, Bob Cross, Nick Foster, Barry Girling and Julian Miller. They are all so conscientious and keep the churchyard looking really smart. Anne Girling has once again kept the weeds and edges on the flower beds sorted. Many thanks to her for that.

Last year our tulips suffered badly from muntjacs and I think the same will happen again this year. This Spring we are going to cut back a lot of the ivy which is spreading along the ground at the back of the church.

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### Sidespeople (Both Parishes)

Betty Bates, Stephanie Beaumont, Avril Bevens, Janice Brown, Michael Capps, Jenny Capps, Celia Chignell, Rob Chignell, Sam Clarke, Harry Clarke, Anne Constantine, Dan Cuming, Margaret Davenport, Carol Davis, Guy Davis, Margaret Dearing, George Donovan, Jean Donovan, Gill Elwood, Rachel Fogg, Sheila George, Jeff Gorton, Tom Hipwell, Sue Lawrence, Donald Lester, Jane Middleton, Julian Miller, Teresa Miller, Craig Santus, Angela Steele, Mick Ward, Nick Wareham, Alison Wareham, Jenny Wilkinson.

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

## Church Attendance — GREAT GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2016					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Age Worship 10.00am	44	11	55	N/A
9 <sup>th</sup>	No service	-	-	-	-
16 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion with Baptism 9.30am	52	21	73	Not recorded
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	5	0	5	N/A
30 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion 10.00am Group Service	45	7	52	Not recorded

Church attendances at Easter and at Christmas 2016				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day	-	-	-	No Service
Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service	280	50	330	N/A
Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion	82	0	82	66
Christmas Day	No service			

Other Data for 2016		Adults	Children
Average attendance at Sunday services other than at major festivals		48	13
Baptisms		2	
Weddings		5	
Funerals		2	

On behalf of Great Gransden PCC

Rev. Catharine Furlong  
Priest in Charge

Iain Strath  
Secretary to PCC

## All Age Worship Report — Sheila George

Our little group continues to plan and lead the All Age Worship services on the first Sunday of the month at Great Gransden. However, there have been some changes to our faces. During the year, Avril Bevins and Nadine Santus stood down and we have welcomed Angela Steele and Rachel Greaves. The position of chairman has not yet been filled. The most difficult problem is still finding a time suitable for all to meet to plan the services. We never have a full house and sometimes it can be just myself and the leader of the forthcoming service who get together.

The change of the service time to 10am is working well bringing it in line with the time of the other main services at the beginning of the month. Our average attendance over the year was 50 being split 1/3 children 2/3 adults. May was the best attended month with 77 present and we drop down to 30 when the services occur during school half terms and holidays.

During the year, we have provided a variety of themes and activities with 7 people leading or assisting. On 2 occasions, we welcomed Glenn and Maggie Coiley with Mission in Puppets (videos can be seen on the church Facebook page). They were assisted by the Brownies and members of the congregation in their performances. I am sure everyone present enjoyed this novel way of telling the bible story.

We keep the same format each month, but this year some of our congregation have not been happy with the modern confessions we have used and this is being rectified in 2017. Our Choir has led us in some modern worship songs and on one occasion the pop song 'By the waters of Babylon' was included. Thanks to them for learning music which is often outside the comfort zone of traditional repertoire for a church choir.

I would like to express thanks to all the members of the planning group – Tony Bevins, Janice Brown, Donald Lester, Tamsyn Hadden, Teresa Miller, Iain Strath, Angela Steele, and Rachel Greaves for their support. Some have given unstinting support since the introduction of this service in October 2001.

## Mission & Outreach Report — Jennifer Wilkinson

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

Currently the members of the Mission and Outreach committee are:

Great Gransden: Jenny Wilkinson (Chair)  
Little Gransden: Alison Wareham  
Abbotsley: Philip Soar  
Waresley: Christine Badcock

We were very sad when our previous Chair, Helen Catmur, died during the year. She had been Chair of the committee for the past 11 years or so; organiser of the Christian Aid collection in Great and Little Gransden and organiser of the monthly Traidcraft stall in Great Gransden Church. She inspired us with her concern for those in need wherever they were.

We support charities caring for others, in prayer and financially, whilst encouraging fellowship within our parishes.

We support the parish of Christ the King in Rio de Janeiro and their priest, Father Antonio Terto. We support them through our prayers and send money via USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). We were very pleased to welcome Naomi Herbert from USPG to a service in Great Gransden Church in November. She was able to give us an update on the very difficult circumstances the people there face. To support the work there we organised a concert provided by Douglas Coombes and The Ensemble of Friends.

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

We have also supported the work at the hostel for young homeless people in Kings Ripton, Huntingdon, by giving harvest gifts, clothing and toiletries and also by helping with some gardening.

Thanks to Teresa Miller we continue to have a Traidcraft stall once a month in Great Gransden Church. We would like to thank the Revd Catharine Furlong for the speakers she invites to our services during the year to speak about their organisations, e.g., Médecins Sans Frontières.

We had boxes in all four churches for the collection of used postage stamps for the hospice at Moggerhanger.

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

## Treasurer's Report — Great Gransden — Andrew Fogg

As of 31 Dec 2016, the General Account held £5949; on 31 Dec 2015, the balance was £10417, so a substantial reduction on the year, mostly due to payments versus fundraising for the roof repairs. Gift Aid was successfully claimed for 2015 in early 2016, yielding £2701. A claim was also successfully made under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£914).

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

The "2016" donations to Mind In Cambridgeshire and US (USPG) were made in December 2016, £400 in each case.

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

Ministry Share decreased slightly to £16,365 (from £16,412) due to discount from paying 2015 in full by direct debit, but will increase to £16528 in 2017. The insurance premium increased slightly relative to 2015 (£3858 vs £3651) and will increase again in 2017 (to £3933). Heating oil prices rose somewhat in 2016; we spent £1212 on oil (£1025 in 2015), but these figures of course do not correspond exactly to a year's usage in either case.

There continue to be significant costs for photocopying under Administration. There were also relatively major works on the heating this year.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant.

Funds for the roof repairs and roof alarm arising from the attempted lead theft were successfully raised, not least by some generous personal donations and £5000 from the Poor's Land charity. However £7500 of the loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust still needs to be paid back in three instalments of £2500 in the month of May in 2017, 18 and 19, and the Category A works raised in last year's new Quinquennial Inspection amount to at least £13,000 so further fundraising is needed.

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**

Stephanie Norris of Purcell Architects in Cambridge is our new inspecting architect. In the quinquennial inspection in July she reported that the church fabric and facilities are in generally good order and very well maintained. She identified no urgent works (other than the roof repairs) but a number of small works should be undertaken within the next two years - likely cost £15000-£20000.

On 26 June the church suffered an attempted lead theft. Three strips of lead were removed from the roof and another 10 lifted. The thieves were disturbed and no lead was taken out of the churchyard. As a result the PCC decided to have a roof alarm fitted and the work was carried out in August. The repairs to the roof, including the replacement of some rotten roof timbers, were completed in October and the roof remarked with Smartwater. The repairs were partly covered by the insurance but funds had to be raised for the purchase and installation of the roof alarm and the PCC is grateful to village charities and individuals for their generosity.

The 5 yearly electrical inspection was in February. Some remedial works were required which were completed in June. The boiler needed repair in March due to a blocked oil filter. In June the pipework from the tank to the boiler and the shut-off valve arrangements were renewed and the boiler serviced. The lightning conductor was checked in May. Fire extinguishers were serviced in August. The organ was covered after the lead theft until the roof was repaired to protect against dust and debris. The organ has been tuned regularly. The church was broken into just before Christmas and the donations safe stolen. In the process the thieves damaged the main door lock. This has now been repaired.

Thanks to a wide range of volunteers the usual regular care and maintenance programme has been carried out. I am especially grateful to Rob Chignell for gutter and downpipe clearance and oversight of the churchyard maintenance team, Phillip George for general tower and clock maintenance, Richard Dring for several small carpentry works and the band of people who cut the grass, maintain the churchyard and clean the church. Rob, Phillip, Iain Strath and Andrew Fogg have been especially helpful in dealing with contractors, police and insurers.

Please pray for more community use of the church building with its improved space. Please also pray for more volunteers to help with the regular care of the fabric and grounds.

## **Diocesan Synod Report — Rachel Fogg**

Donald Lester and I are the current members of Diocesan Synod. I was re-elected by the Deanery Synod in summer 2015 for a 3 year term, Donald is ex-officio. Diocesan Synod meets 3 times a year, in March, July and October. Regular business includes a report from Bishop's Council and a Presidential Address usually from Bishop Stephen. New Diocesan Officers are also commissioned at Synod meetings. The Diocesan Synod is the body that approves the Diocesan budget and any new strategies.

2016 meetings have focused on the new Diocesan Strategy Ely 2025 and the detailed activities that go with the 5 levers for change. There has also been a certain amount of reorganisation in Diocesan posts and we have been introduced to new officers and heard from them about their priorities. There is now always an opportunity in Diocesan Synod meetings for small group consideration of some of the reports.

In March 2016 we had presentations on the new Communications strategy and on the new arrangements for considering the deployment of ministers in the Diocese in the light of declining clergy numbers nationally. In June Synod received the Diocesan accounts for 2015 and received the final report on the Diocesan strategy – Ely 2025. There were also oral presentations on the proposed Diocesan Rule of Life and on the current state of the Diocesan multi-academy trust for schools. The October meeting focused on the recent safeguarding audit and on a presentation from the Director of Mission and Education on working in schools. There was also a paper from the Communications group on the 1<sup>st</sup> 100 days of the new Communications strategy.

Diocesan Synod is a large body of people and it can take a while to understand the processes. However, the decisions taken there have a direct impact on the life of the parishes and the people encountered there are committed and interesting.

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

**Diocesan Website**  
<http://www.elydiocese.org/>

# Joint Parish Reports

## St. Neots Deanery Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

Our four parishes are part of the Deanery of St Neots. The other parishes are St Neots, Eynesbury, Gamlingay, Hatley and Everton, Buckden and the Offords, Great Paxton, Little Paxton, Diddington and Southoe, Great Staughton, Little Staughton and Hail Weston. All Deanery clergy are members of the Deanery Synod and it has lay representatives from every parish in the Deanery. Its members elect Diocesan Synod and General Synod members. Current representatives are Rachel Fogg from Great Gransden, and Betty Bates from Little Gransden. Donald Lester is an ex-officio member of Deanery Synod. Lay representatives, one from LG and two from GG, will be elected for a 3 year term in 2017.

Synod met 4 times in 2016. The regular business of the meetings covers Deanery events, reports from Diocesan and General Synod, and finance, particularly the consideration of Ministry Share. Ministry Share is the money that each parish pays to the Diocese to cover the costs of its priest. The Diocese requests a certain sum from each Deanery, and the Deanery treasurer communicates the required sum to each parish and oversees the process. In addition to the above we have discussed youth work in the Deanery focusing on the new youth club at St Neots and work with Ernulf Academy, the puppet ministry of Glen and Maggie Coiley, food banks nationally and in the Deanery, the new Diocesan Discipleship course which has run twice in the Deanery, and the new Parish Giving initiative. There was also a meeting to discuss the impact of the vacancies in the Deanery in the Staughton group and the Gamlingay group.

The Deanery also organised Deanery Evening Services in Lent which raised £500 for Unicef, and held an uplifting confirmation service at Great Paxton with Bishop David in the summer.

One of the joys of going to the Deanery Synod is the opportunity to meet with people from other churches in our Deanery, learn more about their situations and get their view of Deanery and parish matters. It helps us to be less insular in our thinking.

Please pray: for the churches in the Deanery as they continue to review their mission and ministry to their communities; for those parishes who are in vacancy at the moment as they think about their needs for the future; for the development of youth work in the Deanery; for the new housing developments in the Deanery and the opportunities they bring.

## Little Gransden Parochial Church Council

### Administrative Information

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

### Objectives and Activities

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

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

**PCC Members** who have served since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and who have continued until the date of this report have been:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Catharine Furlong - Chairperson  
Churchwarden: Prof. Nicholas Wareham - Vice-Chairperson  
Churchwarden: Mrs. Sheila George (until April 2016)  
Mrs. Betty Bates (from April 2016)

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

Elected Members: Mrs Janice Brown  
Mrs Suzanne Lawrence  
Mr Donald Lester  
Mr Ian Ramsay 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 those who attend the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

(Lt Gransden PCC cont)

The committees are as follows:

### **Standing Committee**

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

### **All-Age Worship Planning Group.**

This committee meets monthly to plan the All-Age Worship service for the next month. 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. Betty Bates and Nick Wareham represent the parish at these meetings.

### **Mission and Outreach Committee**

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

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### **Electoral Roll – Suzanne Lawrence**

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2016 there were 32 persons on the church Electoral Roll of whom 13 were not resident in the parish.

As at 27th February 2017 the figures were the same.



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

## **Fabric Report – Little Gransden – Nick Wareham**

The most recent quinquennial inspection of the Church in March 2012 identified a number of key works that were required.

In 2015 we completed the repair of the East Chancel gable with financial assistance from the AmeyCespa Community Fund.

The next most critical issue is the repair of the nave roof. This is not visible from ground level, but is in urgent need of repair in order for the Church to stay watertight. The estimated total cost is £95,755. In 2016 we applied for an award from the Listed Places of Worship roof repair fund administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. In June 2016 we received notification that our application had been successful, providing a grant of just under £50,000, which, with our ability to recover the VAT of £15,959, means that the PCC will need to contribute £30,096. We are fortunate to have the Pickard Fund to provide this sum. We have received all the necessary permissions for this work and activated the grant at the end of December 2016. We will issue a tender shortly with a view to commencing work in mid-September 2017. The period in which the work can be undertaken is determined by the requirements of Natural England in relation to the protection of bats.

Once this work is completed, we intend to proceed to redecorate the interior of the Church including repairing the masonry in the columns. We plan this work to commence in 2018. Our Architects (Purcells) have completed all the necessary preliminary work for the redecoration including commissioning a report from an expert conservator and the drafting of a specification of works.

Finally we have commissioned a feasibility study from Purcells for various improvements to the utility of the Church including improved disabled access. This feasibility report will form the basis for grant applications for co-funding which we intend to pursue in 2017.

The PCC is up to date with all the necessary tests including PAT testing of portable electrical goods, lightning conductor tests and a mandatory asbestos register. The audit of all items within the Church building is complete.

Finally we are grateful to all those who clean the Church building and maintain the churchyard.

## Treasurer's Report — Little Gransden — Ian Ramsay

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

Charitable donations were again made to The United Society, Christian Aid, Cambridgeshire Mind and The Children's Society.

In 2016 the church received an additional amount from a legacy in the previous year. This will be spent on church maintenance. The PCC initiated a project to repair the nave roof. The work is planned to be carried out in 2017.

There was a shortfall of just over £1,300 on the general running costs of the church.

Further information on all aspects of the parish's finances will be given in the statement of accounts for 2016 which is being issued separately at the Annual General Meeting



Gt Gransden church interior from the chancel

## Secretary's Report - Little Gransden — Stephen Sullivan

### Review of the Year

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

An annual Fire and Health & Safety inspection of the church building takes place, and the results and recommendations are communicated to the Parish Council. There was one reported during the year ended 31 December 2016, which was considered at the meeting on 21 February 2017. Policies for Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, for Conflict of Interest, for Access and Amenity and for Health and Safety are in place and are reviewed on an annual or bi-annual basis as appropriate..

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

### Joint PCC

We have welcomed the expansion of the Joint PCC on Mission & Ministry so that it includes representatives from Abbotsley and Waresley. We continue to monitor the 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), Janice Brown (ALM, Pastoral) and Sheila Thompson (ALM, Pastoral).

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

### Joint Reports

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

## Church Attendance – LITTLE GRANSDEN

Sunday attendances during October 2016					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
2nd	Holy Communion 8.00am	10	0	10	9
9th	No service	-	-	-	-
16th	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	4	0	4	N/A
23rd	Family Communion 9.30am	33	4	37	31
30th	No service	-	-	-	-

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas Day 2016				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day Family Communion 9.30am	77	9	86	67
Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am	66	10	76	60

Other Data for 2016	
Baptisms	0
Weddings	1
Blessings of Marriage	0
Thanksgiving for Birth of a Child	0
Burial (with service at Gt.Gransden)	1
Service for interment of ashes	1

The average attendance at Sunday services, other than at services on major festivals, throughout 2016					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
8.00	Holy Communion	9	0	9	12
9.30	Family Communion	30	3	33	10
10.00	Group Family Communion	41	5	46	3
3.00	Carol Service	77	6	83	1
6.00	Evening Prayer	6	0	6	9
Overall Average Attendance				21	
Total Number of Services					35

On behalf of Little Gransden PCC

Rev. Catharine Furlong  
Priest in Charge

Dr Stephen Sullivan  
Secretary to PCC



Little Gransden church interior from the chancel