

Gallery for 2017



Great Gransden Church Fete held in the garden of David and Sheila Prest



We welcomed Chris Duffet to lead our family service in February (see page 21)



The wedding party provided ice creams for guests before the ceremony on the 2nd June.



A pen was set up in front of the chancel arch for the Living Nativity service on the 24th December. Sheep, geese, chickens, a sheep dog a pig goats and a donkey were present.

The Parish Churches of Great Gransden and Little Gransden

The Annual Report for 2017



Lt Gransden - March 2018



Gt Gransden - Jan 2018

The Ministry Team

- Rev'd Catharine Furlong — Priest in Charge
- Anthony Bevens — Licensed Lay Minister
- Janice Brown — Authorised Lay Minister — Pastoral (until Feb 18)
- Sheila Thompson — Authorised Lay Minister — Pastoral (until Sep 17)
- Sheila George — Authorised Lay Minister — Music
- Angela Steele — Authorised Lay Minister — Youth (from Sep 17)



1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018



Index of Reports

Foundation Governor at Barnabas Oley School Iain Strath

Priest in Charge Report	3
Great Gransden PCC	
PCC Membership	4
PCC Committees / Electoral Roll,	5
Secretary's Report / Churchyard / Sidespeople	6 / 7
Church Attendance	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Fabric Report	10
Little Gransden PCC	
PCC Structure, Membership and Committees	11 / 12
Electoral Roll	12
Secretary's Report	13
Church Attendance	14 / 15
Treasurer's Report	16
Fabric Report	17
Joint Parish Reports	
Deanery Synod	18
Diocesan Synod	19
Mission and Outreach	20
All Age Worship	21
Choir	22
Safeguarding	23
Bell Ringing	24
Sunday School	25
Mothers' Union	26
School Foundation Governor	27

It is undoubtedly a great pleasure to be a governor at Barnabas Oley. It is demanding as all governor posts are now but the reward comes in being able to engage and be a part of such a rich and life enhancing environment. Barnabas Oley is a smaller than average school with just five mixed aged classes and serves the children from the Gransdens & surrounding villages.

The academic results achieved by the school exceed the county & national averages in almost all areas and the children are offered the opportunity to participate in a wide range of additional music, movement, sport and drama activities, and visits.

Pupils look forward each day to their collective worship and their enjoyment in their singing is a great joy to see and hear. Every class plans and presents an assembly to the whole school and their parents, and each Friday a celebratory assembly recognises the weekly awards that have been won outside the school by individuals as well as those given to the children by staff. And, of course, birthdays are celebrated here too.

Each summer Year 6 pupils visit Clare College, our church patron. In July the Founder's Day service in St Bartholomew's was led by Dr Jamie Hawkey, the Director of Studies at Clare and this strong link is continued in the presentation of Oley bibles to leaving pupils, and book grants to those Barnabas Oley students who go on to university.

This year the school has priorities that focus on reading; communication and growth mindset (Google it if you want to know) and displays in the school illustrating these are really stunning.

More information about the school can be found at www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk

The school always welcomes contact with members of the villages. www.barnabasoley.cambs.sch.uk.



**The Gransdens' Mothers' Union Report
Avril Bevens (Branch Leader, Deanery Secretary,
Emergency Prayer Officer)**

(Christians caring for families worldwide)

We have eleven subscribed members. Two members resigned/moved away from the village.

We began the New Year with a meal at Waresley, accompanied by partners and visitors. Members have enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers and activities. Anthony Bevens LLM led us through a Lenten journey, Hazel Williams MBE, described the work that led to her award, Elizabeth Elson related her family life and work in South Africa, Dr Angela Steele spoke about Spirituality in the NHS and Catherina Griffiths gave an illustrated Part One talk called ABC (Adventures, Blessings and Challenges) to be completed next year. Nita March demonstrated and enabled members to make Christmas floral centre pieces, and a craft session produced knitted garments and embroidered pocket crosses.

Anthony and Avril Bevens led Thursday Prayers at Ely Cathedral and at Little St Mary's church Cambridge. Members also supported Nursery Tents at Wimpole Hall and The Gransden show.

Deanery events attended: Lady Day service at St Ives, led by Father Mark, Harvest service at Huntingdon led by Rev Charles Dixon and a Christmas celebration hosted by St. Neots Branch.

Diocesan events: A Quiet day and Spring council held at St. Peter's church March, and Autumn festival at Milton church, where we were privileged to listen to Felicity Hawke, our Provincial President.

We are extremely grateful to all parishioners who have supported our charities throughout the year. Prem baby knitted garments for the Rosie Maternity hospital, toiletries for Addenbrookes Sick Children's Trust, food toiletries and gifts for The Huntingdon Women's Refuge, and The Gransdens Agricultural Show committee for their donations to MU Ely for manning The Nursery tent on Show day.

The Branch donated Mothering Sunday bookmarks to all Parishes and continue to supply Baptism knitted teddies for Christenings. A Garden party was held in August to thank all supporters. Despite the rain, 28 people attended in the new location (Reading Rooms).

God gave us sunshine, birds and trees the star filled sky above. He gave us beauty, flowers and friends and special people to love. And then, because each life would bring its share of stress and care, He gave to us the wondrous gift- the miracle of prayer.

With every blessing.

Priest in Charge Report — The Rev'd Catharine Furlong

What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start. (T.S Eliot).

These words eloquently illustrate the tension of transitions. For me as I reflect on the last twelve years of Ministry both here in the Parishes and Hinchbrook Hospital Chaplaincy, before my Retirement this year, I can reflect with nostalgia while at the same time look forward with a sense of expectation and excitement.

Over the past years I look back with overriding memories which I will carry for the rest of my life. I attribute this to all I have met in their homes, bumped into in the street, prayed with, talked and ate with in the villages, in our School and walked with on Pilgrimages; to use the words of the athlete in the film "Chariots of Fire" by walking you felt God's pleasure.

Endings can bring their share of sadness, saying goodbye to friends leaves a gap in our lives.

Looking forward can be exciting but carries with it the uncertainties of tomorrow. How do we make sense of the big questions of life and our daily concerns when we have no idea what to-morrow will bring?

I am reminded of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who said when various thoughts jostle in our head, "I'm hopeful", his statement rooted in his Christian trust that in all things God works for good of those who love Him. (Romans 8 : 28).

I would like to thank all those who have and are working so hard for the Churches, Communities and in the Hospital.

Every ending is a new beginning.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit will lead us in our new beginnings that they be filled with more love, hope and life than we can ever contain.

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 2017 to April 2018 the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong

Churchwarden: None elected.
Assistant Churchwardens: Mr. Rob Chignell
Mr. Iain Strath

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs. Rachel Fogg, Mrs. Jennifer Wilkinson

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

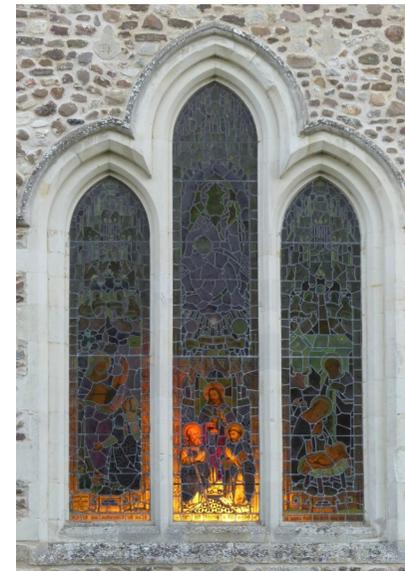
Ex Officio: Mr Tony Bevans - Licensed Lay Minister

Sunday School Report — Teresa Miller (Leader)

The Sunday School has continued to meet during the family communion service on the third Sunday of each month. Depending on the attendance, the children have met in two age groups with the "Pebbles" (ages 3 to 7) using the choir vestry and the "Rocks" (ages 8 to 11) using the ringing room.

With the increase in children's sporting and other activities on a Sunday morning, Sunday School numbers have continued to decline during 2017. The average attendance over the year was 7 children. This has meant that occasionally the two age groups have met collectively in the choir vestry. The Sunday School team have ensured, however, that all children attending have enjoyed a lively discussion related to the gospel reading of the day, invariably supported by an activity and always with something to take away to help them reflect on what they have learnt.

Thanks go to all those on the rota of helpers for their continuing support, this includes Monique Beckett, Stephanie Beaumont, Coral Doggett, Sarah Dutton, Rachel Greaves, Angela Steele, and Angie and Dan Whiddett. Particular thanks go to Jen Watkins who planned, prepared and led the Pebbles group for most sessions during the year.



Lt. Gransden sunset through east window
April 17

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

"For bells are the voice of the church" - Longfellow. The ringers hope that you enjoy hearing the bells welcome you to services and special events.

Fourteen quarter peals were rung. A local band rang in memory of the late Mrs Anne Bradbury, who enjoyed listening to the bells, and left a generous bequest to the tower.

Date touches were rung to mark 2017 and 1972, Sheila and Phillip's 45th wedding anniversary. QPs celebrated the consecration of former Gransden chorister, the Very Rev'd Peter Wilcox as Bishop of Sheffield, successful GCSE results for Alasdair and Andrew, Sheila and David's 40th wedding anniversary, and to welcome our newest addition to the team, Reuben Machin-Autenreith, born on 29 March. Phillip achieved the notable milestone of having rung 1000 QPs, and Sheila G reached 700. There was one quarter peal by a visiting band. The local band rang to celebrate BBC Music Day.

We rang for one wedding, on a beautiful early summer day, including our traditional "firing" of the bells to help celebrate this happy occasion.

The ringers continue to develop under the tuition of Phillip and Sheila, routinely ringing Plain Bob Doubles, and working on other methods. We have been delighted to welcome returning ringer Hazel Pettit, and new recruit Lynn Walton.

"Yet stands the Church clock at ten to three?" - Brooke. Yes it did, for about two weeks! The clock, which was installed in 1683, stopped shortly before Christmas until after New Year. After repair, the clock and chimes are working, but the underlying problem is unclear and will be investigated further by a specialist company

The "Singers and Ringers" enjoyed a safari supper - thanks to hosts the Fogs and the Fosters. The weather was kind, so for the energetic there was swimming, with Sheila G acting as lifeguard! The Christmas social was kindly hosted by Sheila and Phillip G, including the traditional quiz with the lucky winners receiving yet more chocolate.

Looking forward, it is essential that we recruit more ringers to sustain the ringing. Anyone from age 10 upwards is very welcome to learn. It is very satisfying, needing strong teamwork to make music for all to hear, and it is fun! Regular updates about the bells and tower activities are reported on the website, <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/greatgransdenbellringers/> 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 Standing Committee

All Age Worship Planning Group

Meets monthly to plan the services of All Age Worship

Members representing Gt Gransden: Lynn Walton, Nick Walton, Tamsyn Hadden, Donald Lester, 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), Christine Badcock (Waresley).

Electoral Roll — Mark Doggett

The electoral roll for Great Gransden (as last approved by the PCC at the 2017 APCM) shows 110 members of whom 100 are resident and 10 non-resident

The electoral roll figures presented in the 2017 Annual Report indicated 113 members, 105 of whom were resident and 8 non-resident

The electoral roll changes since the 2017 Annual Report are 3 leavers (3 resident and 0 non-resident) and 2 movers (from resident to non-resident)

Secretary's Report — Great Gransden — Iain Strath

PCC Meetings

Great Gransden PCC held three meetings in March, June and November to discuss matters mainly relating to fabric, finance and administration.

The safe for visitor donations located by the churchwardens' chest was stolen early in the year. The Parish Council was approached for funding to renew the church path that had become a hazard for some. The Quinquennial report on the condition of the church building will require fundraising activities to meet the cost of fabric repairs to the value of some £20,000 to be carried out in the next two years.

The PCC is fully aware that following the retirement of our priest an interregnum will have to be faced of what may be 12 months or more in length.

Looking ahead to the way in which the churches in our deanery would be organised and staffed in the future, the PCC agreed to carry out a survey within the village to capture views of the importance of having a priest living in the village, alongside other aspects of the place of the church in the village. The results were encouraging with 94% valuing having a priest in the village and 98% valuing the church building; 65% of respondents were willing to support the church financially.

Catharine Furlong's retirement in April 2018 will mark 12 years not only of dedicated service and leadership of the four churches in the benefice but also of strong and fruitful relationships with organisations within and without our immediate communities. She has widened our horizons by the rich and varied programme of visits and visitors she has arranged whilst ensuring that she has faithfully carried out the church's main task of love and care for the people it serves. The PCC is immensely grateful for her ministry and mission at St Bartholomew's.

Joint PCC Meetings

In 2017 the Joint PCC met in January and September and, in addition to arrangements for future services, discussion has centred on the arrangements for youth work and adopting new safeguarding policies and practice. The future for the present benefice continues to be our major concern not only in the light of the suspension of presentation rights but also the retirement of our priest in charge, Catharine Furlong, in April 2018.

Safeguarding Report Phillip George — Safeguarding Co-ordinator

New National Church guidelines on safeguarding were introduced during 2017. All PCCs throughout the diocese should now be working to these.

I presented a paper to the joint PCCs of Great and Little Gransden highlighting the key issues and how they affect our parishes. I am now liaising with PCC members to implement the changes as required.

I attended the annual Safeguarding Co-ordinators meeting at Cambourne in September. This included further training. My training for other elements of the programme are up to date.

The annual safeguarding review 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 25 DBS checked volunteers helping in Gt. & Lt. Gransden churches but further applications will be processed as all PCC members must now be DBS checked.

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



Music Sunday 2017 (see page 22)

Choir Report — Sheila George — ALM Music

Things remain static in our Church Choir. As usual a busy year singing at all the main morning Sunday services in The Gransdens, as well as at Waresley for Group Services. Unless the main body of the church is used, Abbotsley cannot accommodate us – it also gives us a well-earned Sunday off! No new members and no 'retirements' so our numbers remain the same, with the majority giving regular committed support, but a few unable to commit to regular attendance.

David John's sick leave lasted to the end of the first quarter of 2017 and again we relied on visiting organists playing for our services. Lloyd Barnett, organist at St Neots was most supportive during this time coming over every Wednesday to play for Choir Practice and is still filling in at a moment's notice when David is absent. We could not have continued without Lloyd's support. Thank you, Lloyd.

The RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme seems to have been put on a back burner for now. Time restraints at practices means we cannot give this as much time to this as we would like and help from home is also needed if the children are to progress. Congratulations to Hazel Pettit who was successful in the Bishop's Award Examination.

Highlights during the year

- ♪ God so loved the world – the devotional service on Good Friday
- ♪ Extra music on Easter Sunday
- ♪ Choir Festival at Ely Cathedral in May
- ♪ Music Sunday celebrated in June at our normal service at Great Gransden and included annual presentation of Choir prizes (book tokens) to the trebles.
- ♪ Summer Safari Supper with use of swimming pool at College Barn.
- ♪ Christmas celebrations when we were joined by members of The Gransden Ladies Singers.

Thank you to all those who support me by turning up almost every week. Without this constancy we could not continue to provide the music to a good standard during our services.

Looking back over my reports for the last 14 years, nothing much seems to change. Faces come and go, children grow up, but we still go on. With the interregnum coming up our church is again going to go through a period of change, but hopefully we can still be as strong in the years to come, with more examination successes, more recruits, more singing, more music.

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.

On behalf of Great Gransden PCC

Revd. Catharine Furlong
Iain Strath

Priest in Charge
Secretary to PCC

Churchyard — Rob Chignell

Once again may I start by thanking our faithful band of volunteers, Barry Girling, Bob Cross, Nick Foster and Julian Miller; also Anne Girling who maintains the flower beds. The churchyard looks smart all summer thanks to them.

Barry Girling has spent some considerable time cutting down some of the elder bushes and removing large amounts of ivy. Those of you who walk round the back of the church will notice how we have cleared a large area of ivy which was spreading across the ground. Part of a medium sized tree, near Rippington Manor, was blown down leaving the other part in a precarious state. The Parish Council paid to have this removed.

By the time you read this the path leading to the church will have been re-laid and a church notice board erected by the lych-gate. The churchyard looks better than ever. Enjoy it !.

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 Dearing, George Donovan, Jean Donovan, Gill Elwood, Rachel Fogg, Sheila George, Jeff Gorton, Tom Hipwell, Donald Lester, Jane Middleton, Julian Miller, Teresa Miller, Craig Santus, Angela Steele, Iain Strath, 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 2017					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
1 st	All Age Worship 10.00am	32	2	34	N/A
8 th	Baptism 2.30pm	88	10	98	N/A
15 th	Family Communion 9.30am	51	13	64	Not recorded
22 nd	Evening Prayer 6.00pm	4	0	4	N/A
29 th	Group Family Communion 10.00am	47	5	52	46

Church attendances at Easter and at Christmas 2017				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day - Family Communion with Baptism 9.30am	125	25	150	80
Christmas Eve 11.15pm Midnight Communion	75	5	80	59
Christmas Day	No service			

Other Data for 2017		Adults	Children
Average attendance at Sunday services other than at major festivals		48	13
Baptisms		4	
Weddings		1	
Funerals		7	

On behalf of Great Gransden PCC

Revd. Catharine Furlong
Priest in Charge

Iain Strath
Secretary to PCC

All Age Worship Report – Sheila George

The Planning Group continues to meet most months to make plans for and lead the All Age Worship services on the first Sunday of the month at Great Gransden. Unfortunately, Rachel Greaves had to stepped down after only a short time with us, and lately Angela Steel has been restricted in joining us due to illness and Janice Brown due to family commitments. However, I am pleased to report that Nick and Lynn Walton, who recently moved to the village, have joined us and are proving to be an asset.

Our services follow the set readings for the Sunday and often our prayers and content are drawn from 'Roots'. Roots is an ecumenical publication based on the Revised Common Lectionary, providing a wealth of material to support the week by week worship and learning of the whole Church community.

In the past we have tried to spread the load by having 2 leaders, one to take the service and one to be responsible for the address, but due to those missing (see above) this has not been possible this year and often one person has had to do all the service. However, we were pleased to get a slot in Chris Duffett's busy schedule in February; Rachel Greaves led her first service assisted by Tony Bevens in May; Rachel Fogg took our June service and due to Angela's illness, Sheila George and Iain Strath had to quickly fill in to jointly lead in December. Tamsyn Hadden was also able to take services this year.

With a service every month in 2017 except January our attendances seem to be static, however as with the other main morning services the number of children attending is falling, and often at the AAW service it is usually just the youngsters in the Choir plus one or two others.

Finally, I would like to express thanks to all the members of the planning group who plan and support this service each month. Without this help these services would not take place and our church life would be lacking an important asset.

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:	Vacancy
Waresley:	Christine Badcock

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 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.

During December and early January we have collected used postage stamps for the Hospice at Moggerhanger and will continue to do this.

In December we had a collection of items, e.g., hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries, canned and dried foods and canned dog food for the people who use Wintercomfort in Cambridge. We had an amazing response and they were very grateful when we delivered all the items. We aim to continue with this.

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 invited to our services during the year to speak about their organisations.

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 2017, the General Account held £5309; on 31 Dec 2016, the balance was £5949, so no great change on the year, reflecting the absence of any special outgoings. Gift Aid was successfully claimed for 2016 in early 2017, yielding £2706. A claim was also successfully made under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£917). Similarly VAT was successfully reclaimed in early 2017 for works done; £2354.

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

The "2017" donations to Mind In Cambridgeshire and USPG were made in December 2017, £400 in each case. The Living Nativity on Christmas Eve raised £811 which was split between Centrepoint and Age UK.

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

Ministry Share increased slightly to £16,528 (from £16,412). It will increase by another 3% in 2018. The insurance premium increased slightly to £3933 and will go up again in 2018. Heating oil prices rose somewhat in 2017; we spent £1094 on oil (£1212 in 2016), but these figures of course do not correspond exactly to a year's usage in either case, masking the changed price per litre.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant.

£5000 of the loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust still needs to be paid back in two instalments of £2500 in the month of May in 2018 and 19, and the Category A works raised in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection will require further fundraising to the tune of £25 - 30,000.

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 — Rob Chignell

The church generally is in a good state. We have delayed over the category A works in the Quinquennial because we do not have sufficient funds to proceed. I have now asked the architect for some specifications on these works and hopefully, with the help of our Patron Clare College, we will be able to make a start.

The most expensive items are repairing and protecting the stone around the outside of windows, mainly in the chancel. Without grants we cannot start on this work as we still owe £5000 borrowed for previous maintenance. We keep a check on down pipes and gulleys.

We are very grateful to Philip George for looking after the tower and clock so well. The clock did stop for a couple of weeks and Phillip called out the clock makers to repair it but not until he had tried at length to fix it himself. All those who go up the tower know it is looked after immaculately. The new burglar alarm had its first annual inspection and all is working well.

Thanks to the regular band of people who keep the church clean and to Celia Chignell for organising this, especially the annual spring clean.



Memorial stone in Little Gransden churchyard



A "green man" carved on a pew front in Great Gransden

Diocesan Synod Report — Rachel Fogg

The current members of the Diocesan Synod from St Neots Deanery are clergy – Annette Reed and Paul Andrews – lay members - Ann Williams and Catherina Griffiths (St Neots) and myself. 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.

2017 meetings have focused on the implementation of Ely 2025 (the Diocesan Strategy) 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 2017 we had a presentation on the Diocesan Way of Life – helping to nurture a confident people of God – and a presentation on the work of the Children's Society. In June Synod received the Diocesan accounts for 2016 and listened to presentations on the Church Building Audit and Development Action Plans. The October meeting, which started with a service of Holy Communion in the Cathedral, included a presentation on the Safeguarding Review, a talk from David Kinder, Chaplain at Littlehey Prison and drama from the Hope Players, and information on the Diocesan Lent course.

Diocesan Synod is a large body of people and it can take a while to understand the processes, which are quite formal and rather parliamentary in nature. 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 and opportunities offered by Ely 2025.

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. 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. Rachel Fogg and Jenny Wilkinson from Great Gransden, and Betty Bates from Little Gransden were elected for a 3 year term from 2017. However, at the next Deanery Synod meeting it was agreed that Donald Lester would be the representative for Lt. Gransden. Betty Bates was then co-opted to the Deanery Synod by the Rural Dean.

Synod met 4 times in 2017. The regular business of the meetings covers Deanery events, reports from Diocesan and General Synod, and finance, particularly the consideration of Ministry Share.

In March we had a visit from the Diocesan Director of Ministry, Linda Church, and the Diocesan Director of Mission, Peter Wood, to talk about training and resources and funding for new mission initiatives.

In June we talked about safeguarding and shared activities going on in our parishes. The July meeting was largely given over to Finance and notification of the requirement for PCC members to be DBS checked. The Deanery ran a training session on Safeguarding on November 25th which was well attended.

The September meeting was to discuss the future shape of the Deanery and to talk about how parishes might collaborate in ministry.

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 those parishes undertaking re-ordering of their churches; 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 1st January 2017 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. Betty Bates

Representative on the Deanery Synod:
Mr. Donald Lester (*elected until June 2020*)

Elected Members: Mrs Sheila George Treasurer
Mr Ian Ramsay Secretary
Dr Stephen Sullivan

Co-opted Members: Mr. Nick Collett (from June 2017)

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.

Monthly Family Service/All-Age Worship Planning Committee.

This committee meets monthly to plan the All-Age Worship service for the next month. Sheila George represents 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.

Electoral Roll – Alison Wareham

At the time of the annual parochial church meeting in 2017 there were 33 persons on the church Electoral Roll of whom 13 were not resident in the parish.



facebook.com/greatandlittlegransdenchurches

Fabric Report – Little Gransden – Nick Wareham

In July 2017 the Quinquennial Inspection was conducted by our Architect, Stephanie Norris of Purcell. The overall summary was that the “general condition of the church is very good and the PCC has carried out a large amount of work over the last 15-20 years. With the anticipated Nave re-roofing and internal decoration projects, the church will be in an extremely good state of repair for many years to come”.

In the latter part of 2017 we undertook major works including the complete replacement of the nave roof plus installation of new gutters and repointing of the lower half of the Tower. Whilst the scaffolding was in situ, we also removed and renovated the clerestory windows, which are situated high in the nave. This project has been made possible the Pickard Fund and by a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

In 2018, we will proceed to undertake a major internal decoration project for which we already have prepared a specification and completed a survey by a conservator. This work will include repairs to arcade columns, repointing and lime mortar repairs throughout the church.

The PCC is up to date with all necessary tests including the 5-year complete electrical system test, the PAT testing of portable electrical goods, lightning conductors, heating systems and mandatory asbestos register. The audit of all items with the Church building is complete.

We are grateful to all those who clean the Church and keep it and the churchyard maintained.



Refurbished clerestory window



Scaffolding in the south aisle

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 2017 the PCC initiated a project to replace the nave roof. The work is planned to be finished in March 2018. A grant was received to contribute towards the cost.

There was a shortfall of just over £4,000 on the general running costs of the church. Once again the reclaim of income tax wasn't completed, this will be done in early 2018.

Further information on all aspects of the parish's finances will be given in the statement of accounts for 2017 which is being issued separately at the Annual General Meeting.



Gt Gransden church interior. Sunset through the tower window

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 were no reported incidents during the year ended 31 December 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. 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 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 and Sheila Thompson (ALM, Pastoral) and Angela Steele (ALM, Youth Ministry).

Thanks are also given to the Reverend Catharine Furlong, as she retires from leading 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 2017					
Date		Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
1 st	Holy Communion 8.00am	4	0	4	4
8 th	No service	-	-	-	-
15 th	No service	-	-	-	-
22 nd	Family Communion 9.30am	32	2	34	31
29 th	No service	-	-	-	-

Church attendances on Easter Day and at Christmas Day 2017				
	Adults	Children	Total	Communicants
Easter Day No service	-	-	-	-
Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am	78	4	82	55

Other Data for 2017	
Baptisms	0
Weddings	0
Blessings of Marriage	1
Thanksgiving for Birth of a Child	0
Funeral	1
Funeral with Burial	1

The average attendance at Sunday services, other than at services on major festivals, throughout 2017					
Time	Service	Adults	Children	Total	No of Services
8.00am	Holy Communion	6	0	6	12
9.30am	Family Communion	32	4	36	11
10.00am	Group Family Communion	35	3	38	4
3.00pm	Carol Service	60	4	64	1
4.00/ 6.00pm	Evening Prayer	5	0	5	4
Overall Average Attendance				20	
Total Number of Services					32

On behalf of Little Gransden PCC

Revd. Catharine Furlong
Dr Stephen Sullivan

Priest in Charge
Secretary to PCC



Little Gransden church interior from the south aisle