

Gallery for 2018



Bell ringers mark Catherine's retirement



Gt Gransden
Clock repairs in May



We tried to copy one of Antony Gormley's works in play dough during our All Age Worship in June



Great Gransden church fete



Little Gransden
Church fete



Candles for Remembrance



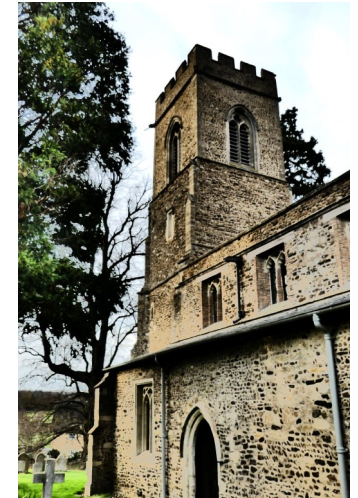
Mission in Puppetry

The Parish Churches of Great Gransden and Little Gransden

The Annual Report for 2018



Gt Gransden - Jan 2019



Lt Gransden - Jan 2019

The group of parishes was in vacancy from the 1st April 2018

The Ministry Team

Rev'd Catharine Furlong — Priest in Charge (until 31st March 2018)

Anthony Bevens — Licensed Lay Minister

Sheila George — Authorised Lay Minister — Music

Angela Steele — Authorised Lay Minister — Youth

The Revd Rachel Blanchflower was licensed as Priest in Charge on 31st January 2019



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Foundation Governor at Barnabas Oley School **Iain Strath**

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It has been a year of significant change and of some excitement at Barnabas Oley. In March an OFSTED inspection rated the school good and indicated that another visit would be planned to determine if it was also outstanding. Much sooner than expected, OFSTED returned and in November their report confirmed to the delight of staff and parents that we definitely do have an outstanding school in the village.

In July Michelle Downes, Assistant Headteacher at the school, was appointed as Headteacher to replace Becky Smith who was to take up a headship in Peterborough.

The retirement of Revd Catharine Furlong was marked in a special school assembly that included a *Take That* musical tribute (her favourite band) performed by boys in Year 6 as well as warm good wishes from staff and children.

Barnabas Oley benefits significantly from a well supported PTA that contributes some £10,000 per year to school funds. This fundraising is mirrored by the children's activities in raising donations to a variety of charities during the year.

In March Bishop Stephen enjoyed a visit to the school and was taken on a tour by the head girl and boy.

The memory of Barnabas Oley was kept alive not only by a Founder's Day service in St Bartholomew's but also by the annual Year 6 visit to Clare College. The college also provided through the Oley Trust an Oley bible to each school-leaver and a book grant to 13 pupils who had progressed to university. St Bartholomew's also hosted the school's Harvest Festival and Christingle services.

Given the current financial restraints the school has had to manage, the governors are very proud indeed of the progress and success achieved over the last year. In 2019 the school's priorities are writing; history and geography; and design and technology.

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

The Gransdens' Mothers' Union

Lynn Walton

We have twelve subscribing members who came as they were able to the monthly meetings. The programme for the year was a varied one. Grateful thanks go to speakers who came to talk to us: Tony Bevens on Lent, Jan Smith on working with Deaf people in the Diocese, Lynn Walton on the charity Chanasa she helps to run in Malawi, Janet Cockcroft on her faith and life, Catherina Griffiths on her visits to Kenya, Beryl Waterson on the Mothers Union General meeting in Swansea. We also enjoyed a lunch at Waresley Garden Centre and a Christmas Celebration in St Neots with other groups from the Deanery as well as a garden party hosted by Tony and Avril.

Members also attended a Deanery service for Lady Day in St Ives and for Mary Sumner Day in St Neots. We hosted the Deanery Harvest Festival Service in Great Gransden and joined in the annual Wave of Prayer which moves around the globe every day of the year ensuring that Mothers' Unions in all areas of the world are prayed for.

Members past and present also helped man the Nursery Tent at the Gransden Show and the Diocesan Mothers' Union were pleased to receive the generous donation from the show committee. Baptism Teddies given to children at their Baptism are produced and anniversary cards are delivered to those who have recently been baptised. Bookmarks were supplied and distributed to all churches for Mothering Sunday. Away From It All (AFIA) a Mothers' Union holiday scheme to give the opportunity of a break to those who are experiencing stress in their family life has been supported.

Sincere thanks go to all villagers who have supported the various charities we are involved with. The Women's Refuge by donating food, gifts and toiletries particularly at Christmas time. The Rosie Maternity Hospital by knitting premature baby garments and toiletries for Addenbrookes Sick Children's Trust for parents who suddenly have to stay overnight with very sick children.

Avril has stepped down from being Branch Leader and many thanks are due to her for her work both in the parish and for the other roles she has undertaken for the Mothers' Union both in the Deanery and Diocese over the past years.



Introduction—Churchwardens' Statement

The introduction to the annual report of our churches in 2017 by Reverend Catharine Furlong spoke of endings and beginnings, which she rightly predicted would be our theme for 2018.

In April 2018 our year began with an ending as Catharine retired after 12 years of ministry in our parishes and we said goodbye at a packed and emotional service in Great Gransden and at a highly enjoyable bring and share lunch afterwards, at which the love and respect for Catharine across all our churches and in all our villages was very evident. In her time with us, she brought so much to our worship and lives and we are all grateful for her hard work and dedication and wish her well in her retirement.

Thereafter, the parishes were in "vacancy" but we have been fortunate that this not been disruptive, principally because it has been relatively brief, but also because of good organisation, support and teamwork. All four parishes have worked together excellently well and we are grateful to everyone who has helped us. We have been fortunate to have the help and leadership of our Reader, Tony Bevens through this period. Our rota of visiting clergy was highly efficient and we are exceedingly grateful to all those who visited and led our worship during this period. We made excellent connections and hope that we can keep in contact with these members of the clergy in the future.

In the spring and summer, the churchwardens met on several occasions with the Archdeacon and Rural Dean to prepare a description of our parishes as part of a process of seeking a new vicar. We were delighted, therefore, when our year ended with a beginning when we were able to proceed to a formal diocesan interview in November with the Reverend Rachel Blanchflower, who was subsequently appointed by the Bishop as Priest-in-charge and licensed to our parishes on January 31st 2019. It is evident to all those involved in the appointment process and to everyone who has met Rachel subsequently, that we are extremely fortunate to have her join us in our parishes. We welcome her, Sean and their sons to the benefice and very much look forward to working with her as she begins her ministry with us.

Catharine wrote last year that "every ending is a new beginning". We are confident in 2019 that our new beginning is exciting and vibrant and will be, as we expressed in our prayers last year, full of "love, hope and life".

Nick Wareham, Betty Bates, Iain Strath, Rob Chignell
Churchwardens

The Parochial Church Councils

Background

The Parochial Church Councils of Great Gransden and Little Gransden have the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge in promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical

The parishes are part of the united benefice of Great Gransden, Abbotsley, Little Gransden and Waresley, within the Deanery of St. Neots.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 4 Webbs Meadow, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds SG19 3BL. The parish was established on 1 August 1999 and on 30 January 2019 Revd Rachel Blanchflower was licensed as half-time Priest-in-Charge

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCCs are charities exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCCs are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with 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 respective 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 who are not members of a PCC.

Sunday School Report

Sarah Dutton (Leader)

The Sunday School has continued to meet during the family communion service on the third Sunday of each month. Unfortunately, the attendance has diminished over the past year. There should be 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, however there currently is no "Rocks" group.

With the increase in sporting and other activities on a Sunday morning, Sunday School numbers have continued to decline during 2018/19. The average attendance over the year was 4 children, but in most instances the number of attendees per session has been 2 children. This has meant that the two age groups have had to meet collectively in the choir vestry. I have tried to ensure that the children attending have enjoyed a discussion related to the appropriate reading of the day, the reading is supported by a craft activity relevant to the reading, the children enjoy the sessions and have something to take away with them to do with what they have learnt.

There is currently a small list of helpers who come to support the groups when needed but again due to reduced numbers there has not been the necessity to have extra adults helping as well as the children who currently attend come in with the support of their parents being in Sunday School with them, the list of helpers includes Monique Beckett, Stephanie Beaumont, Rachel Greaves and Teresa Miller. Special thanks go to Teresa who has worked tirelessly in helping me take the reins as Sunday School Leader and for her ongoing support.

Great and Little Gransden Churches Website

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

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

"The bells they sound so clear.....A happy noise to hear" AE Housman

2018 was another very busy and enjoyable year in the tower and beyond. We were delighted to welcome two new ringers, Georgia Yarrow and Sue Taylor. All ringers have continued to develop their skills, with certificates awarded under the Learning the Ropes scheme to Alasdair Catmur Level 4, Georgia L1, Lynn Walton and Susanne Machin-Autenrieth L2, and Matt Machin-Autenrieth L3.

Ten quarter peals were rung including six by all local bands. The QPs commemorated local and national events, including the retirement of Rev Catharine Furlong, 18th birthday compliment to Alasdair, the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Without doubt the most poignant was ringing half muffled to commemorate the centenary end of WWI; this was dedicated to the memory of Arthur William Fuller, a Gransden ringer who was killed at Ypres, and the family members of current ringers who were engaged in the war. The Ringers offered an auction prize to the Gransden Ball, with a tower visit and a QP which commemorated the wedding anniversary of the winners' parents.

A group of Gransden ringers and ringing friends had a very enjoyable ringing tour in Warwickshire. As well as being a fun and sociable event, ringing in new towers is a very good for developing skills – not all towers are the same! We welcomed visiting ringers to St Bartholomew's, including groups from Basingstoke and Essex, and the Hunts District monthly meeting in October.

A team was entered in the Huntingdon District striking competition. Independent judges placed Gransden first in the advanced section, a very exciting achievement for the tower!

Social highlights included the "Ringers and Singers" party, thanks to the Georges for their kind hospitality on a lovely summer's evening, and the Christmas party at the Prests, complete with challenging quiz. Both were a great opportunity to chat about ringing among other subjects.

Clapper adjustments to the bells was carried out by Whites of Appleton in May. The striking characteristics of the bells were measured in October, in anticipation of modifications to improve striking and raising the bells (especially No 5).

New ringers of all standards are very welcome, with training provided from complete beginners onwards. It is a fun and sociable activity, with public performances welcoming people to every church service.

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/>

(The Parochial Church Councils cont)

Sidespeople (Both Parishes)

Betty Bates, Stephanie Beaumont, Avril Bevens, Janice Brown, Michael Capps, Jenny Capps, Celia Chignell, Rob Chignell, Nick Collett, Anne Constantine, Margaret Davenport, Carol Davis, Guy Davis, Gill Elwood, Rachel Fogg, Sheila George, Jeff Gorton, Tom Hipwell, Sue Lawrence, Jane Middleton, Julian Miller, Teresa Miller, Craig Santus, Angela Steele, Lynn Walton, Nick Walton, 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.

PCC Joint Committees

Churchwardens Meetings

The Churchwardens of the benefice meet together on a regular basis to discuss matters relating to the four parishes.

All Age Worship Planning Group

Meets monthly to plan the services of All Age Worship

Members representing Gt Gransden: Tony Bevens, Tamsyn Hadden, Teresa Miller, Angela Steele, Iain Strath, Lynn Walton (until December 2018), Nick Walton. (until December 2018) Member representing Little Gransden: Sheila George (Chair)

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), Christine Badcock (Waresley). Teresa Miller (Gt. Gransden) Alison Wareham (Lt. Gransden)



Great Gransden Parochial Church Council

Membership of the PCC

Members of the PCC who have served since the APCM 2018 have been:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong—Chair
(retired April 2018)
The Revd Rachel Blanchflower
(licensed 31st January 2019)

Churchwardens: Mr. Iain Strath (Vice Chair)
Mr. Rob Chignell

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs. Rachel Fogg—Hon Sec
Mrs. Jennifer Wilkinson

Elected Members: Mr Andrew Fogg - Treasurer
Mr. James Harvey
Mr. Donald Lester (until June 2018)
Mrs Jane Middleton
Mrs. Lynn Walton (until February 2019)
Mr. Nick Walton (until December 2018)

Ex Officio: Mr Tony Bevans - Licensed Lay Minister

Electoral Roll — Mark Doggett

The electoral roll for Great Gransden (as last approved by the PCC at the 2018 APCM) shows 104 members of whom 93 are resident and 11 non-resident.

The electoral roll figures (as approved by the PCC at the 2017 APCM) indicated 110 members of whom 100 are resident and 10 non-resident.

The electoral roll changes between the 2017 and 2018 approved figures are 8 leavers (6 resident and 2 non-resident), 3 movers (from resident to non-resident) and 2 joiners (both resident).

The Electoral Roll is due for revision in 2019

Safeguarding Report

Phillip George — Safeguarding Co-ordinator

There have been no safeguarding incidents during the reporting period.

In accordance with the National Church Guidelines 2017 all PCC members of both parish churches now have DBS certificates. This is a pre-requisite to membership and all prospective PCC members must be made aware of this before they are elected.

In addition, all leaders of activities sponsored by the PCCs, e.g. choir, bell ringers, Sunday School have been certificated.

All those who hold DBS certificates have carried out safeguarding training Level 0 and some have attained higher level certificates according to their role. Refresher training at any level is required every three years.

Twenty-five members of the congregation have DBS certificates and ongoing monitoring ensures that they are renewed every five years.

I attended the annual safeguarding training workshop at Cambourne in September. This is organised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and enables an active and ongoing link with the parishes.

The various church safeguarding policies are reviewed annually, and this was done in November 2018 by leaders of the bell ringers, choir and Sunday School. The PCC policy will be reviewed now that the Rev Rachel has been licensed. A copy is posted on church notice boards.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about safeguarding.

CHILDLINE for children and young people - **0800 1111**
<http://www.childline.org.uk/>

NSPCC for adults concerned about a child - **0800 800 5000**
24-hour National Domestic Violence helpline - 0800 2000 247

Choir Report

Sheila George — ALM Music

Things don't change very much in our Church Choir with a busy year singing at all the main morning Sunday services. There have been no new members and no 'retirements' so numbers remain the same – a total of 20. However, some have found it more difficult to be there as regularly as in the past, but we have a nucleus of about 10 who are able to give regular committed support. Sadly, invitations in *Roundabout* for anyone interested to attend an 'Open Choir Practice' have borne no fruit.

There has not been any training in the RSCM Voice for Life Training Scheme this year. The scheme rewards participants with different coloured ribbons to be worn with their choir robes which indicate the level of musical achievement attained. Workbooks have been given to the children to take home and work through with their parents but although frequent encouragement has been given the children have been unable to complete them.

Highlights during the year

- ♪ One practice cancelled due to snow!
- ♪ The Way of the Cross – the devotional service on Good Friday
- ♪ Extra music on Easter Sunday
- ♪ Sung Evensong for a Group Service in April
- ♪ Choir Festival for a few at Ely Cathedral in May
- ♪ Music Sunday celebrated in June at our normal service at Great Gransden and included new music for the communion service by Margaret Riza.
- ♪ Ringers and Singers supper held on a lovely sunny evening in July
- ♪ Christmas celebrations – 4 services sung at in 48 hours.

There were no weddings during the year but we sang at the funerals of members of our church family, Donald Lester and Margaret Marr.

The Choir has been very much appreciated by all the visiting priests we have had during the interregnum. On a personal note I thank all the choristers for the support they have given me over the year. We are very close little group in our church and support and share in one another's joys and sorrows.

New singers always welcome to join us. If you are unsure but would like to try it out come along to any Choir Practice – 6.30pm every Wednesday in Great Gransden Church (unless it's too snowy!)

(Great Gransden PCC Cont)

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

Churchyard Report — Rob Chignell

Still the same grass cutters as last yeara great team and many thanks to them all. This year we have cleared a large area of ivy from the ground and now have a huge area which we hope will be grass again before long. A number of small shrubs and larger elders have been cleared and many gravestones exposed. The compost heap has had a retaining fence put round it using cutting from trees

In the beds either side of the church path daffodils were planted last year and were very good . They are coming up looking strong again this year. The Rudbeckia were also good, they seem to go on for ever.

Some of the larger limes and beeches had branches removed by contractors. this was organised by the Parish Council.

Special thanks to the Girlings. Ann tends the flower beds and Barry does everything else. We are supposed to cut the grass for the Parish Council but we do an awful lot more than that

Secretary's Report — Great Gransden — Rachel Fogg

There have been five full meetings of the PCC in 2018, four jointly with the PCC of SS Peter and Paul, Little Gransden in January, June, September and November and one to discuss Fabric and Finance in March 2018. Since the beginning of the vacancy in April all PCC meetings have been joint meetings of the two PCCs.

Fabric works during the year have included the installation of new LED lights in the chancel, the repair of the clock hands and the relaying of the path to the north door, for which the church is very grateful to the Parish Council. The church architect has prepared a specification for the works arising from the 2016 Quinquennial inspection and tenders are being sought. The cost of the works, mainly external stonework, is now likely to amount to at least £30,000.

The PCC joint meetings considered matters relating to the vacancy at each meeting. Grateful thanks are due to Dr Nick Wareham for co-ordinating the arrangements for visiting clergy during the vacancy and to the clergy who have come to take our services.

The PCCs considered the introduction of the new GDPR regulations in May 2018 and approved a privacy policy notice for the website. An annual Fire and Health and Safety inspection of the church building has taken place, resulting in updated arrangements for fire exits at services and sidesmens' training undertaken by Mr Nick Walton. The PCC would like to thank Mr Walton and Dr Stephen Sullivan for their assistance with these matters.

A Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults is in place. During the year all PCC members completed the required level of training and have been DBS (Disclosure and Barring) checked.

From October 2018 to end February 2019 SS Peter and Paul Little Gransden has been closed for internal redecoration and their services transferred to Great Gransden. The PCC has been very happy to extend this facility.

The PCC notes with pleasure that the church continues to be used regularly by the school for services and other events. Community organisations are also encouraged to use the church and the Revellers drama group staged a production of 'Diary of a Nobody' in the church at the end of January 2019.

The benefice marked the retirement of Revd Catharine Furlong after 12 years' service with a special service followed by lunch at which she was presented with gifts from the parishes. The licensing of Revd Rachel Blachflower was held on 30 January 2019 attended by representatives of her previous parish, local clergy, friends and family as well as parishioners across the benefice followed by a reception at the school. We look forward to a new chapter in the life of the parish with Rev'd Rachel's arrival.

All Age Worship Report

Sheila George

Our small planning group continues to meet monthly to plan the All Age Worship services held on the first Sunday of every month. However, we have been struggling during the year – Janice Brown retired from the group early in the year, and Angela Steele and Tony Bevens have both taken a step back due to illnesses. Therefore, our planning relies on just one or two. The other members are myself, Iain Strath, Tamsyn Hadden and Teresa Miller.

At the time of writing this report Nick and Lynn Walton have indicated they no longer wish to be involved. Following Catharine's retirement, I agreed to accept Chairmanship of this group until our new Priest is in post.

Despite lack of planners, we have ably produced a variety of AAW services. In January we celebrated the Epiphany led by Rachel Fogg; February was Candlemas with Christingles; March's service contained a quiz about the 10 Commandments and a 'rap'; we skipped April due to Easter. May's service included some young ballet dancers; Iain entertained with some magic in June and we tried to copy one of Antony Gormley's works with play dough (*see photo on back page*). Dan Whiddett led July and talked about 'Balance' and included a game with lollipop sticks; August was 'Gifts to all people' with photos showing all the gifts and talents our church family bring to our church life. September's theme was 'Walk the Talk'; October was 'Who do you think you are' with a dramatic version of the Gospel. Sheila and Iain had to quickly fill in for November due to illness and we thought about the Great Commandment. December saw the welcome return of Tonto and Delilah of Mission in Puppetry with congregational participation. What are we going to come up with next?

Although we are not attracting more families with children to this service, attendance seems to be static with our regulars supporting us every month.

Thanks go out to all those who lead, take part, read, act, or support us just by being there

Mission and 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)
Great Gransden:	Teresa Miller
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). I attended a USPG Regional Day in Peterborough in November, which was extremely interesting with a chance to meet other people from the East of England. We had two speakers – one a Priest from Bedford who had taken a short sabbatical and spent time working with refugees arriving in Greece and the other the Chair of the Youth Council.

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 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. In March we held a successful Big Brew event for Traidcraft.

We have brought The Children's Society collection boxes under the umbrella of the Mission and Outreach group and I am now responsible for organising these.

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 2018, the General Account held £5670; on 31 Dec 2017, the balance was £5309, so a small improvement on the year. Gift Aid was successfully claimed for 2017 in May 2018, yielding £2597. A claim was also successfully made under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (£1082).

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

There was a most welcome donation to church funds of £1000 from the estate of Margaret Marr.

Sadly we have lost our most generous monthly standing order following the death of the donor. We have two new donors and an increase in giving from another which together offset about half of the loss, but this means that on average over the year we only just have enough income to cover our costs, and the Treasurer will have to keep a close eye on cash flow.

The PCC agreed to suspend any donations to charities (including Mind In Cambridgeshire and USPG) for as long as the PCC still has any loan to pay off, except in the cases of services or events which are for special causes (eg the Christingle).

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

Ministry Share increased slightly to £17,024 (from £16,528). It will increase by another 3% in 2019. The insurance premium decreased slightly to £3874 but will go up again in 2019 (£3992). Heating oil prices continued to rise 2018; we spent £1214 on oil (£1094 in 2017), but these figures of course do not correspond exactly to a year's usage in either case.

£2500 of the loan from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust still needs to be paid back, the final instalment to be paid in May 2019, and the Category A works raised in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection will require further fundraising to the tune of £30 – 35,000. The Restoration Fund has been exhausted by payments to the architect for initial planning and tendering work, so work cannot proceed until we have raised the money.

There was also some call on the J and B Brown Fund, mostly to cover organist's fees.

The Special Projects Fund remains dormant.

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

In March the church architect, Stephanie Norris, visited to look at schedule A works, ie work which needs to be completed within two years of the quinquennial (2016).

She prepared specs etc and we asked for tenders for these works. Four firms were asked to tender of which two did. However on approaching our patrons, Clare College, I was informed three tenders are essential. All this has dragged on for months now but at the time of writing we have finally got three tenders. The total cost of these works which consists mainly of repairing and protecting the exterior window surrounds, is about £32,000. We do not have anything much in the fabric fund. Clare will pay for about £12,000 of these works leaving us to raise about £20,000 fairly quickly.

Apart from that the fire extinguishers have been checked, the PAT testing has been done and the earth cable down the tower passed its test.

The boiler was serviced in August but in November/December the boiler played up and it took about five weeks to get the parts required and then fitted. Fortunately the weather wasn't too cold but we had a few chilly services.

The down pipes are kept clear and flowing; the organ has been serviced during the year and in October the roof burglar alarm had its annual test and service.

The toilet exterior wall has looked very unattractive for some time now and the tiles above the wash hand basin have fallen off. I obtained a quote for painting the wall and re fixing the tiles for £180 which we have accepted.

Thanks to Nick Walton we now have a fire risk assessment which is very useful to refer to, especially when we have a lot of people in church. All sidesmen were given training on the safety procedure.

Thanks to all those on the cleaning and brass rotas for keeping everything spick and span. Also we are very grateful to Philip George for looking after the tower and the clock so methodically and for organising the clock repair.

The church is generally in very good order, so be sure to make use of it.

Joint Parish Reports

St.Neots Deanery Synod Report

Jennifer Wilkinson

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. Rachel Fogg and Jenny Wilkinson represent Great Gransden and Betty Bates represents Little Gransden. Our Deanery representatives on Diocesan Synod are: Revds Nicki Bland and Paul Andrews. The lay representatives are Ann Williams, Catherina Griffiths and Glenn Coiley.

The regular business of the meetings covers Deanery events, reports from Diocesan and General Synod and finance, particularly the consideration of Ministry Share (the money we pay to the Diocese). We meet with people from other churches in our Deanery and learn more about their situations and their plans for the future.

Janet Perrett, the Deanery Chair, represents the Diocese on the General Synod and has given us reports on a variety of agenda items from Safeguarding to Finance; seminars on Biblical Studies, Theology, Biology and Pastoral Advisory Group; workshops on Children and Young People, Digital Evangelism and Environmental matters.

Revd Paul Andrews has reported on progress towards a Team Ministry between St Neots, Eynesbury and Loves Farm with Wintringham Park, when it is built.

Suggestions for future synod speakers include Eleanor Puttock, Diocesan Digital Evangelism Manager, and also Geoffrey Hunter and Timor Alexandrov to explain the purpose and methodology of the Church Buildings Audit Project.

We pray for the churches in the Deanery as they continue to review their mission and ministry in their communities

Diocesan Website

<http://www.elydiocese.org/>

Fabric Report — Little Gransden

Nick Wareham

In summer 2018 we completed repairs to the drainage of the church to the north and south side, including the construction of a raised inspection chamber with man hole on the north access path.

In the autumn of 2018 we commenced a major internal restoration project of the church overseen by Purcell and undertaken by Herringbone restoration. This project was made possible by the Pickard Fund. Due to the extensive nature of this work, the church was inaccessible in the latter part of 2018 and into 2019 and we are grateful to Great Gransden for allowing services originally scheduled for Little to be moved to Great Gransden.

The restorations have included repairs to all masonry particularly the nave columns, replastering of walls, lathe and plastering of the internal ceiling of the nave, removal of a redundant flue in the tower, restoration of all wood, re-hanging and repair to the west door and alteration to the porch and north door so that it is accessible for those with disabilities. Given the historical nature of our building, we had to consult with conservator throughout and will make their report available on the church website as it documents how we have protected areas of ancient paint there are covered by the limewash.

We have commissioned a structural engineering report into movement in the church building. We have installed “tell tales” to allow for movement to be monitored and have agreed a future schedule of visits for measurements to be taken.

We are grateful to all parishioners for their patience during these works.

With the new roof that was installed in 2017 the completion of this major project now puts us in an excellent position to consider the remaining elements of the feasibility plan for modernisation that the PCC commissioned.

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

Little Gransden Parochial Church Council

PCC Members

Members of the PCC who have served since 1st January 2018 have been:

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Catharine Furlong—Chair
(retired April 2018)
The Revd Rachel Blanchflower
(licensed 31st January 2019)

Churchwardens: Prof. Nicholas Wareham - Vice-Chair
Mrs. Betty Bates

Representatives on Deanery Synod:
Mrs Betty Bates

Elected Members: Mr. Nick Collett
Mrs Sheila George
Mr Ian Ramsay Treasurer
Dr Stephen Sullivan Secretary
(until December 2018)

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.

Electoral Roll — Alison Wareham

In 2018 there were 31 names on the church Electoral Roll, of whom 20 were resident in the parish. 2 names were removed from the Roll in 2018

PCC Report - Little Gransden

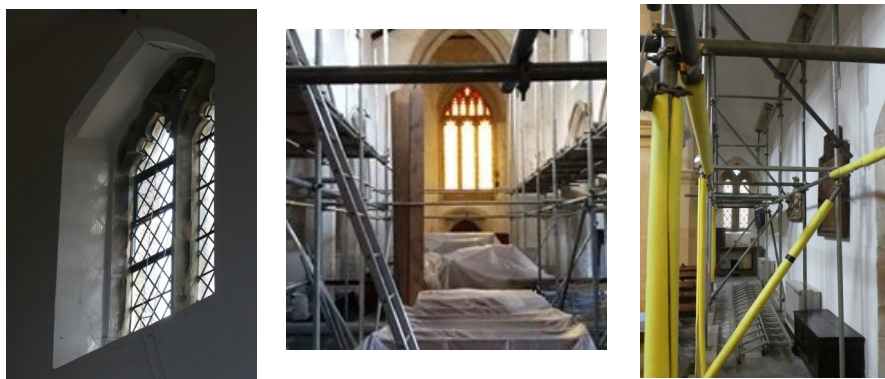
Nick Wareham (acting Secretary)

Review of the Year

In 2018 the meetings of the Little Gransden PCC followed the usual pattern until the parish went into vacancy. Thus a joint PCC meeting was held in January 2018 and a Fabric and Finance Committee meeting in February. The new PCC met immediately after the 2018 Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect officers. Whilst we were in vacancy, the PCC determined that it was most efficient to undertake joint meetings with the Great Gransden PCC and to consider all relevant matters at all meetings. Joint meetings were held in June, September and November of 2018.

There have been no reported health and safety incidents in 2018. The revised Health and Safety Policy (29.1.18) was agreed and is available on the church website.

In accordance with new regulations regarding handling of data (GDPR), the PCCs of Little and Great Gransden agreed the wording of a joint privacy notice which is available on the church website.



Refurbished clerestory window, and scaffolding in the nave and south aisle of Lt Gransden Church.
(See Fabric Report on page 14)

Treasurer's Report — Little Gransden

Ian Ramsay

As in previous years the summer fete and autumn bazaar raised money for day to day running costs. The church is extremely grateful to everyone who helped in any way to raise money.

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

The project to replace the nave roof was completed in 2018, and the VAT paid was successfully reclaimed. The final part of the grant will be claimed in 2019. The PCC also started the internal decoration work, which will be completed in 2019. The cost of the internal decoration work will be paid out of the Pickard legacy. The VAT paid in this project will be claimed in 2019.

The reclaim of income tax for the past 4 years was successfully completed in 2018, and is up-to-date. Due to this income tax reclaim there was an excess in the general account. This is an unusual event and the 2019 budget is predicting a shortfall.

Further information on all aspects of the parish's finances will be given in the statement of accounts for 2018 which is being issued separately at the Annual General Meeting



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