

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GREAT MASSINGHAM

Annual report of the Parochial Church Council 2018

In 2018 we have been members of Gayton, Grimston and Massingham benefice. In the main our services have been taken by Rev'd Judith Pollard. Team vicar. The team rector/incumbent is Rev'd Jane Holmes.

The Parochial Church council is required to co-operate with the priest in promoting the mission of the church. This is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measures Act 1956.

Persons serving on the council during 2018/2019

Rev'd J Pollard	Priest/Chair
Stephen Hudson	Churchwarden/ Hon Secretary
Alan Frazer	Hon Treasurer
Margaret Bowes	Minute Secretary
Judith Haslam	Electoral Roll Officer
Kim Frazer	Deanery Synod representative/ children outreach officer
Adrian Loft	
Gladys Newton	
Anna Burpitt	
David Hendley	Co-opted
Doreen Hendley	Co-opted

The child protection, vulnerable children and adult officer is appointed by the benefice and presently is Rachel Mellor.

The council met six times during the year and was very well attended. The PCC worked tremendously hard collectively and individually during the year and this is to be commended.

Occasional Offices

The pastoral and spiritual work of the parish continues. During the year there were four funerals, three marriages and one baptism. We were pleased to host the Trefoil anniversary service. We were pleased to have the schoolchildren and parents on four occasions during the year

The church is open during daylight hours daily throughout the year. Our thanks are due to Rev'd Julian Thompson for these duties. We have many visitors to the church and they express their pleasure in the cleanliness of the church and the good order of the churchyard. We must thank our dedicated cleaning team who keep our beautiful church in such pristine condition. We are grateful to Mr Brun and the staff at Leicester house farm who keep the grass in the lower churchyard well cut. The upper churchyard and round the graves is very well tended by Keith S., Pip B., Richard F., and Martin T. Our thanks go to this team for their sterling work which is voluntary and without any costs to the church..

During the year the church is decorated with flowers and seasonal shrubs. Our thanks go to Anna and the many villagers who help in these excellent displays and Christmas trees.

The Parish council make a grant of £350 each year towards any costs for churchyard maintenance and we are very grateful for this.

During the year we have catering after church services, at our fundraising functions and afternoon teas.. This is very profitable and many thanks to all involved. Our main fundraising events are the May Fair and Christmas market. These are enjoyed by many within the village and indeed from afar. These events have raised large amounts to our fund raising. Many thanks to Anna B. who works tirelessly to organize these events and all who work so hard to make these happen.

Once again HC4U was well attended and enjoyed by many children and was part of our outreach. Thanks to Kim and her team. The Wednesday afternoon teas are held in church during the warmer weather but during the winter this has been hosted by Mary and Judith. We are very grateful to them and to Margaret B for organizing them. We have been pleased to have a garage sale organized every year by Carly I. with the proceed to the church. Once again thanks to all involved.

The Harvest supper was held once again at our village hall and was well supported and very enjoyable.

We were pleased to host a performance of Lest we Forget as part of our Remembrance services. This was part of the national Remembrance celebrations.

The shoebox appeal at Christmas was very well supported with 143 filled shoeboxes sent away for distribution to children in poorer circumstances. Our thanks to Margaret B. and her helpers.

Thanks go to our bellringers who ring for us on a regular basis and the clockwinders. Thanks to Dale G and his team.

During this year we have had the Archdeacons visitation. This is an examination of all our records and also the fabric of the church. We received a very favourable reply after the visitation.

Services

Our regular service pattern is two eucharist service, one family lay led service and a benefice service. Our congregation numbers are steady but ageing . Our Easter Day lily service was well attended and the flower displays much appreciated. The carol service and Christingle were very joyous occasions. It would be remiss of me not to thank Rhiannon, Tegan and Cody F. who have read our readings consistently through the year.

Fabric statement

The fabric of the church and the churchyard have been maintained as well as possible, The repairs have only been minor and have been dealt with as necessary. The faculty has been granted for the kitchen and toilet. Grants are being applied for and we hope to get the project finished in 2019. Thanks again to Martin T. for the numerous repairs carried out throughout the year.

The year has been quite successful considering our small but very able team. There are many plans for the future which will culminate when our heating system is updated (soon) and the toilet and kitchen.

On a personal note I would like everyone who has assisted me in my duties as Churchwarden.

Stephen Hudson
Churchwarden