

St. Peter's Wentworth

Churchwardens Report for 2023

Offices:

Churchwarden - Gillian Barnes Deanery Synod Rep - Andrew Finch (3year appt)

PCC Secretary - Peter Bovill Treasurer - Joy Walker

PCC Member – Judith Finch

Safeguarding Officer - Grunty Fen Group Helen Carter

Electoral roll 7

Services. Two services per month second Sunday Holy Communion, fourth Sunday Morning Prayer.

- 11 Sunday Eucharist
- 11 Sunday Morning Prayer Services
- Grunty Fen Group Holy Communion –fifth Sun April (15)
- Grunty Fen Group Maundy Thursday Eucharist (20)
- Grunty Fen Group Christmas Day Eucharist (24)

Average Sunday Worship Attendance 5

Ministry Share paid £2139 (100%)

Review of the year

Church life continues to be dominated by the Deanery reorganisation process led by our interim priest in charge Canon Mark Haworth. Andrew Finch is our representative on the DMPC and I have been representing St. Andrew's Witchford. All meeting reports have been circulated to the PCC.

The APCM was held on April 15, 2023. The PCC also met on 1 July and 30 September.

The PCC receives regular meeting reports from the Grunty Fen Safeguarding Officer to ensure it complies with its duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

We continue to work closely with the parishes on the perimeter of Grunty Fen, Holy Trinity Haddenham, St Peter's Wilburton & St. Andrew's Witchford.

The churchwardens, ministers and lay ministers meet regularly to plan worship. Fifth Sundays in the month & important festivals are celebrated jointly. There is a Holy Communion celebrated in one GFG church each Sunday. Canon Stuart Mitchell (retired PTO), Rev Jill Stimpson (Curate, non-stipendiary, assigned to Grunty Fen Parishes), Rev Denise Youngs (retired PTO) along with our lay ministry have given the Grunty Fen Group invaluable support.

Harvest Donations were made to the Haddenham Food Bank.

With the consent of the PCC the Chairman of Wentworth Fundraisers, assisted by the churchwarden, was successful in applying for a grant from Thalia (formerly Amey Cespa, waste management). Wentworth Fundraisers donated the 11% match funding required to the PCC. This has enabled us to replace the existing heaters with modern infrared quartz heaters with no new wiring required. Agreement was obtained from the Chancellor that the work did not require a faculty but could be

added to the list for Archdeacon approval. The grant also covered the purchase of new chairs and tables. All users of the church and hall are very happy with the warmth and comfort.

We were very fortunate to have negotiated a fixed electricity contract in 2021 at a low rate. This expires in July 2024 so inevitably heating costs are due to increase.

There has been a small increase in hall hire.

This year we have met the ministry share without asking Wentworth Fundraisers to contribute. We would not be able to continue the upkeep of the building without their invaluable support.

Wentworth Fundraisers

The aim of the group is to encourage the village to meet, enjoy each other's company and raise money for WF causes.

The Chairman of Wentworth Fundraisers, Phil Brown, is continuing to look at grant funding available.

Funds raised can be split across church, village hall and playpark or any combination thereof. Events held in 2023 include Race Night, Village Fete, Sunday Band concert, Drama – Out of the Frying Pan, Quiz Night, Christmas garland making & carol singing. Coffee & Catchup continues to be held quarterly on Sunday mornings at 11.15.

Their fundraising activities over the past year have led to the 'church' & 'hall' funds meeting grant match funding and £242.00 towards annual insurance.

The balance of funds 31st December 2023 – Church(chancel) £1053.69. Hall (nave) £597.50. Playpark £2099.17.

The PCC is grateful to and values the work of the fundraisers in supporting St. Peter's as the only community building in the parish.

Church building, fabric, and churchyard

Ashley Courtney (AC) the church architect carried out the Quinquennial inspection in October. Several maintenance repairs to roof, walls and buttresses identified but overall, the church is in good condition. A carpenter, resident in the parish, has kindly offered help with minor repairs and has already eased the cloakroom door.

Most urgent matters

- Repointing repairs to roof, walls, and buttresses
- Redecoration of interior especially nave to make hall use more inviting.
- The arranging of a trial dig at the base of the south chancel wall (to possibly establish the cause of plaster cracking)
- Repair to Main St entrance path steps

Work in the churchyard

- The volunteers are continuing to maintain the bronze standard.
- An owl nesting box has been installed in the oak tree.
- Wentworth PC maintain the grass on a fortnightly basis April – Oct.

Gillian Barnes

Churchwarden