

Great Barton Tower Bells 2019-2020

We still have 5 fully paid up members of the Suffolk Guild at Great Barton. We also have a large group of ringers that I can call on for various events and our practice nights are very well attended. We have managed to get teams together to ring for Notre Dame (18.4.19), Ascension Day (30.5.19), Harvest Festivals at Great Barton, Ingham and Thurston, Café Church at Holy Innocents (20.10.19), Remembrance at Great Barton, Thurston and Pakenham and finally midnight communion at Great Barton.

Over the year we have rang for 6 funerals, 2 of which were at Great Barton, and 14 weddings, again 2 of which were at Great Barton. There have been 8 groups of visitors, including one from the USA. 8 Quarter Peals and 1 Peal have also been rung.

As a group we attended several district practices during the year, hosting one on the 8th of February 2020 at Great Barton. We, again, took part in the striking competition held on the 18.5.19 at Polstead. Your Sunday morning band came 1st for the second year running, thereby retaining the Lester Brett Trophy for another year. The team was Sally Veal, Simon Veal, Jill and Doug Rood, Derek Gadd and Neal Dodge. Clare Veal was involved in the 12 bell striking competition on the 15.2.20 at St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich. She was ringing as part of the Norman Tower band, they came first and brought home the George W Pipe Trophy.

On the 24.11.19 Neal, Sally and Simon joined a group of ringers at Kersey being filmed for BBC 2's Arena, to be screened March 2020. We diligently watched but ended up on the cutting room floor (the filming took all morning and it was freezing cold!!)

We lowered the bells at Great Barton on Sunday 22nd March (Mothering Sunday), due to lockdown, and all future dates in the diary are cancelled for the foreseeable future! Next year's report will be quite interesting, I feel.

Sally Veal

Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC)

Over the past year the DMPC has finalised the Deanery Plan, which was presented to all PCC members. This has been accepted in the Diocese and will be implemented during this year. However, due to Mark Howarth leaving and a replacement not yet announced for his role, we believe that some of the plan may need to be looked at once the new Rural Dean is in place.

Peter Robinson

Report to the 2020 APCM – Revision of the Holy Innocents Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll was renewed in 2019, it has now been revised.

I have as usual prepared two versions of the Roll, a copy which has names only and a copy which has names and addresses. The Porch Copy, which has names only, will be displayed in the church porch following the APCM. The Record Copy, which also includes addresses will be held by the the Vicar, the Electoral Roll Officer, the Church Wardens should they so wish and the PCC Secretary. This has been our approach for some years now, it embodies the spirit of data protection.

Details of the new roll:

Resident in the Parish	80
Non resident	12
Total	92

Allan Howell

Fabric Report for the APCM 2020

Firstly, just before Advent 2019 we completed the deep cleaning of the church, at a high and low level, which I'm sure you will agree made a significant improvement to the appearance of the church. The place appeared too many as though it had been lime-washed, such was the increased light reflected. Simultaneously, the font cover was safety checked and a certificate issued.

During April 2020 we will have the 'Tommy' installed to commemorate the fallen of two World Wars. This was funded by an appeal. It will be dedicated on the 8th May to coincide with 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII. It will not be a permanent feature; but will be used for commemorative occasions including our annual Remembrance Sunday. It will also used in April 2021 in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Churchyard War Memorial.

The PCC have already approved expenditure for the work to be carried out on three church windows. The porch window; which is to be removed for repair and re-glazing, with the intention of making it into a Baptismal window. People will be able purchase a diamond section of the window, to which, a person baptised in our church will have their name engraved.

The West window; above the Vestry will have sections remove to be pressed to preserve it and all the window will be cleaned and made watertight.

The East window; the one behind the altar, is to be cleaned as part of this process.

A Faculty application has been submitted to the Diocese for this work.

We still have on-going, the subject of 2 noticeboards. One inside the church wall, which is under review following contact with the Diocese. The second is under review with The Friend's, who are actually funding both noticeboards.

The 'Toilet' which is in desperate need of replacement, is on-going and will require further fund raising and a Faculty application.

Our current arrangement which I negotiated some years ago with the Parish Council regarding grass cutting of the churchyard, is now deemed unlawful under an act of 1894, and the responsibility will now fall within the churches remit. However, the Parish Council will act as our negotiator with tenders to secure a favourable outcome. Further to this, the Parish Council will be able to offer us financial support to pay our church insurance, which is permissible, and it is hoped the corresponding amount will offset the cost of the grass cutting. Therefore, we are aiming for zero cost exchange or as near as it is possible to achieve.

Looking into the future, I detect we may have a possible collapsed drain outside the north door, which needs excavating. We do also need to have a tree inspection of the churchyard, which may have significant financial cost for the church.

But generally; the fabric is in good order.

Our next Quinquennial inspection is scheduled for 2023

Tim Frost
Churchwarden and Clerk of Works

Church Flower Report for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held October 2020

I would like to have been able to report some better news regarding Church Flowers. It has been a really difficult few months and we are now faced with more regulations.

I know it is unfortunate we would just like to be able to get on with our lives, the truth of the matter is we cannot. Covid 19 is here and I am afraid to say it will be here for the foreseeable future.

The Rota ran reasonably satisfactorily with the odd glitch when for whatever reason flowers did not appear as scheduled and it was necessary for a few willing horses to step in at short notice. However since the end of February things have become difficult if not impossible and floral arrangements have only been in place all too infrequently. Access to the church, lack of regular services and clearing up and cleaning have all contributed to the situation as have lack of volunteers to assist. I commented upon this in my 2019 report. No fresh volunteers have come forward and ageism and lack of motivation have not helped. Costs have continued to rise of flowers from all over the world and the impact of "Brexit" from European markets will not help.

Wendy Jones

02.10.2020

The Friends of Holy Innocents

The Friends have been unable to hold an AGM but I did circulate the accounts to 31/3/2020 showing a satisfactory financial position. Recently the trustees have agreed funding for the repair to the porch windows but have withdrawn the proposed grant towards a new notice board until the question of the design and the requirement for planning permission has been resolved.

Colin Tiffin

APCM REPORTS 2020

Peter Robinson.

GDPR

We continue to monitor updates issued by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and the Parish Resources website. I feel that providing we continue to ensure we follow the rules on sharing contact details all will be well.

I believe that we as a Benefice need to remain aware that the contact details, we are given should be kept secure and only shared for the reasons that we have received consent for.

We have completed one audit, but I believe that to ensure we remain compliant we should carry out a review of what information we have and how we share it.

Peter Robinson

Handbells

Joyce Talboys, a ringer and leader for many years, retired in the summer due to failing sight -another ringer left due to work commitments. However, 2 new members have joined and in the autumn we rang at 3 venues. £30 was given to the PCC-a donation from Glastonbury Court.

Janet Hill

MEETING POINT

It is a shame that we had to close Meeting Point but completely understandable, I do not think that we will be in a position to open again this year as we must follow *Government Guidelines* and what the Church of England suggests.

If we cannot get anymore volunteers we may not be able to open as we have in the past, reason being that David has said that he does not wish to continue on a regular basis but he is prepared to cover in an emergency. I would like to thank David for all his help and support in the past.

Denis will not be doing it anymore as he died recently.

That leaves Claire and myself and possibly one other to do the cooking. But we should remember that Claire has her mum and dad to look after as they have not enjoyed the best of health during lockdown. She will also want to get away when she can to see the New Zealand and Cardiff families.

We may have to consider running Meeting Point in a different way with possibly a reduced menu,

We should also thank Betty for her help with Meeting Point.

Betty Holdgate

Men's Breakfast Report for year ended 31 December 2019

We are pleased to report another successful year as we continue to meet in the Church Institute at 9.00am on the first Saturday of each month. The average attendance is approximately 30. Whilst most tuck in to a hearty English Breakfast others opt for the healthy 'Continental' alternative.

Our meetings are of a light hearted nature, fellowship being the key word. With few exceptions we begin or end with a talk by a member or visiting speaker. Many of the talks provide us with a Christian 'message' and are much appreciated by all. Thank you to those who have contributed.

As in previous years we continue to provide breakfast free of charge but many attendees like to make a donation at the end of the meeting. After allowing for expenses any balance is donated to the Doxa Project which has this year benefitted by £500. In return we are kept up to date on current projects which we anticipate will be supported in coming years.

We again supported the Holy Innocents' Christmas Tree Festival, this year winning 1st Prize in the Trade section!! Our entry, with its particular reference to the Doxa Project, was decorated by John Clarke, Eileen Rogers and David Sheppard for which we thank them.

We much appreciate the help given by a number of our members each month, not forgetting a big 'thank you' to Matthew who, through the year, has continued to be responsible for the washing up; to Theo, our 'head waiter, financier and entertainer and to Adam who is always willing to take over the reins, sometimes at short notice.

Finally, we give a warm welcome to those who have joined us during the year. We are always pleased to see new members so why not come along bringing a friend with you.

David Sheppard.

APCM Report The Messenger 2019

The year 2019 saw the best ever advertising income for The Messenger, a number of regular advertisers left but it proved possible both to replace them and to slightly raise advertising rates. (Unfortunately 2020 is more difficult!)

The number of people taking The Messenger continues to fall, over the last twenty years it has gone from c.350 to c. 300. Younger people have no interest and we slowly lose our older readers.

During the year, prompted by Rev Manette, I explored and wrote up the idea of a joint village publication, a similar concept to the Thurston publication. This has yet to bear fruit.

My thanks to that happy band of volunteers who distribute The Messenger and of course to Kate Laidler our brilliant Editor.

After over twenty years I will be leaving The Messenger in December, the PCC is trying to fill the role. Please volunteer.

The following numbers are close approximations, please see the accounts for 100% accuracy.

Advertising revenue	£2173	
Subscriptions*	£ 907	
Total	£3080	
Cost of printing	£2080	(Our only cost)
Surplus for Holy Innocents	£1000	

*Excluding amounts left in church and other miscellaneous of which no records.

Since this Report was written, Allan has given his retirement date as October 31st 2020, and Kate Laidler is also retiring. The PCC has been giving thought to the future of The Messenger.

Holy Innocents' Mothers' Union

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

Again, when I look back, we have had quite a busy and rewarding year. We have enjoyed listening to a number of speakers – we appreciate the talents of our members who generously gave up their time and energy to complete our programme.

We have had the pleasure of visiting Thurston MU during the year and vice versa!

Our Quiet Day at Bardwell was thoroughly enjoyed by both HI and St Peter's MUs and was led by Rev. Mark Hunt.

Several members of both HI and St Peter's had a lovely day at Coventry Cathedral for a Service and to meet the new World Wide President

In July both HI and St Peter's were joined by members of Ipswich Stoke to share in the Wave of Prayer meeting, followed by Eucharist led by Rev.

Manette. Lunch followed in the Church Institute after which we visited the garden of Joanna Mayer. Certainly a good day was had by all.

Other meetings and visits included posy making for Mothering Sunday, Lady Day at the Cathedral and a visit to Fuller's Mill with afternoon tea and cakes.

We concluded the year with a very happy and entertaining Christmas Party.

Finally, I would like put on record my thanks for your kindness to myself and David during Diane's illness. It was much appreciated.

And many thanks for all the help to keep our MU running

Pat Sheppard

PCC Secretary's Report to the APCM

We have discussed a wide range of matters during the past year, meeting every three months with provision for a meeting of the Standing Committee outside these times to discuss urgent matters. These include investigations for a new composting toilet to better meet the needs of the large number of people who use it on occasions, the font cover (ensuring its safety), the service rota, new notice board, new hymn books, Mission and Outreach, Meeting Point, the Church windows (clerestory, east and west windows and porch window), as well as fabric and financial matters. This sounds brief, but there was quite a lot involved in discussing all these matters.

We are very grateful to Rev'd Manette and to everyone on the PCC for what they have given us during the past year, and our warm thanks go to everyone who participates in the multi-faceted aspects of the Parish's life. We look forward to an interesting year ahead, with trust that God will guide us as we put our trust in Him and do our best.

Jane Dalton

Report on Great Barton Church of England Primary Academy for APCM 2020

At Pentecost all classes took part in making large colourful structures from willow wands and tissue paper which were hung with many others in the cathedral for the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. A number of children and parents attended a special Pentecost service there.

The SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which was finally carried out in July gave us a rating of 'Good' which was the highest awarded in this area at the time; however, the inspector said that the governors should be playing a more active role in the children's religious education and should be reporting on their visits more fully.

Collective Worship at school has used themes of Generosity, Truthfulness, Compassion, Courage and Forgiveness; as before, it is led in turn by Manette, Linda Mothersole, Linda Scoles and myself. It is now the usual practice for staff to attend CW each day and hopefully they refer to what has been presented in CW during class time. The children continue to learn about Christianity in their RE lessons and are introduced to other world religions.

When a child leaves this school he/she is given a Bible which has been provided through the generosity of people at the church; we hope that over time they will find the stories and verses that have been used in Collective Worship.

Towards the end of the autumn term, all the children took part in a Christingle service. For the older ones this was held in the church; the younger classes had theirs in school. On Christmas Eve a number of children from the school came with their families to the Crib Service, when they sang carols, heard the Christmas story and put together a Nativity scene using colourful knitted figures.

We have had a considerable change in governors this year as several have come to the end of their normal 4 years on the board; this included the chairman of governors, Bruce Martin. All have been thanked for their service over the years without which the school could not function. Some new people have joined us but we still have vacancies. Having been appointed as one of the Foundation Governors during the year, Charles Gorer has stood down, so we are looking for someone to step into his shoes, to carry out this fascinating and important work with the children.

Kathleen Sewter March 2020`

Website/Facebook

We continue to update both of these media streams on a daily basis and we are receiving good numbers of people visiting the sites. In order to keep everyone interested we need to ensure that new material is posted on a regular basis. The main object for the website and Facebook is to ensure that the younger generation are aware of what we do within the Benefice. I would ask that any services, events or news items for the Benefice are sent to me electronically for posting. It is far more difficult and time consuming having to wait for the Pew Sheet or Newsletter, then coping and pasting to another document and saved as a PDF to then be posted to the sites. Please be aware that we may not all like websites and Facebook, but to the younger members of community these information sharing platforms are a way of life. If I'm not given the information, I can't promise that they will be advertised.

Peter Robinson

Safeguarding

claire.mackichan@gmail.com
to me

4.10.20

I can honestly say that absolutely nothing has changed in the last period except for Annie obtaining her training. That's all I'm aware of.

Claire Mackichan

200 Club Report for 2019 for APCM 22nd April 2020

The 200 Club had 139 registered tickets sold at year ending 31st August 2019. £1640 was paid in prize money and £1640 was transferred to the Church fabric fund in accordance with the Trust Deeds.

The audited accounts were signed off on 20/11/2019 and a notice is displayed in our church porch.

Net registered tickets for the current year is 134. However, notwithstanding the shortfall the monthly payment of prize money remains at £100 first prize and £35 second prize.

This is the major fundraiser for the Fabric of Holy Innocents' Church, and we all need to actively support this and encourage others to join us. It costs £24 per year or £2 a month by standing order.

Tim Frost
Treasurer

