

Great Barton Tower Bells 2021 – 2022

After a slow start to the year, due of course to Covid, bellringing in our parish is now back to normal, although obviously, we are still being careful.

We just rang three bells at the services until mid-May. We restarted our practice nights on the 20th May with just six ringers present shared between the Thursday and Friday nights. We carried on like this until mid-August and are now back to normal, having between six and twelve attending.

We rang for two weddings at both Great Barton and Thurston, also being involved at other towers as well.

We rang for Father Ben's Licensing on Monday 27th September at Thurston. I managed to get enough ringers for two teams to ring at both Great Barton and Thurston for Remembrance, and then we covered a lot of the services over Christmas: the Carol Services, both Crib Services, Midnight at Great Barton and Christmas morning at Thurston.

I would just like to end this report by extending grateful thanks to our ringers who turn out for our services when needed (we also ring at Pakenham on two Sundays a month before coming to Great Barton or Thurston). They are : Jill and Doug Rood, Carl Munford, Becky and Chris Munnings, Brian Evans, Luke Atwell, Simon Veal and myself.

Sally Veal
Tower Captain

Report to the 2022 APCM – Revision of the Holy Innocents Electoral Roll.

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

I have as usual prepared two versions of the Roll, the Porch copy which has names only and the Record copy which has both names and addresses. If the revised Roll is approved by the APCM the Porch Copy can then be displayed in the church porch. The Record Copy will be held by the Electoral Roll Officer, Fr Ben and the PCC Secretary, who has a copy attached to this report. With Fr Ben's approval the Churchwardens will be given copies. This has been our approach for some years now, it embodies the spirit of data protection.

Details of the revised Roll:

There have been no additions to the Roll, there have been four deletions due to deaths, I use the pew sheets and checks by a churchwarden and the PCC secretary as my sources of information. If upon checking, anyone who is aware of other possible changes, please tell me and I will revise this document and the Rolls.

Resident in the Parish	73
Non resident	12
Total	85

Upon approval by the APCM I will:

Place a copy of the Porch Copy in the church porch.

Advise the diocesan office of the new numbers.

Send an email copy of the Record Copy to Fr Ben.

I will continue as Electoral Roll Officer for one further year.

Allan Howell – Electoral Roll Officer Holy Innocents – 01.04.2022

APCM Fabric Report for 3rd May 2022

You would never imagine how much work we have done to our church during a Pandemic.

So, where did we start? On the 7th March 2021, yes! The middle of winter we removed the West window and the South Porch window for restoration.

Again, in the depth of winter: actually, the 10th February, we installed a new Roof Alarm system. Which has performed well. So, thank you to the PCC for supporting my proposal to provide a new system.

Spring came and on the 10th March, we reinstated both the West window and the Porch window, which both look amazing. This then prompted discussion over the general condition of the Porch. Which led to a fund-raising campaign to refurbish this area. Plans were drawn up and with the support of the Diocese and Charles Gorer, our Project Manager, the new refreshed Porch was completed on schedule for Advent.

In supporting of this work all the stained-glass window, but not those requiring further restoration were all cleaned.

That completes 2022, but not the end of our work. The process of raising funds and grants continues for the restoration of three further windows, is a work-in-progress. Also, our long-term objective of replacing our existing toilet facility.

Tim Frost
Churchwarden

Church Flowers

There is nothing to report on the flower account ,flowers post brexit ,covid etc are getting prohibitive cost wise and I virtually have no regular volunteers merely relying on a bit of goodwill .Perhaps you can find a solution, perhaps a flower budget / allowance

Wendy Jones

Handbells

Jane Dalton spoke with Janet Hill about the handbells. They haven't rung them for the past two years, and they will not be resuming as all those who rang are now too old. The bells have been returned to the Church.

Mothers Union Report For Holy Innocents and St. Peters Church APCMs

Both Gt Barton and Thurston were fortunate enough to enjoy separate groups both going back several decades and led for many years by Pat Sheppard and Joy Bolwell respectively.

With the pandemic causing health issues for its members and the 2020/21 programmes having to be abandoned, it was agreed, after a meeting of leaders and committee members on 10th June 2021, that subject to consultation with members and the PCCs, we would join as a benefice group. This was endorsed by members, agreed by PCCs and the Diocese MU, who had revised the need for formality, i.e., committee led groups, made it easy for us to link together on a more informal basis.

Joy, after 14 years of dedicated service as our Leader, resigned at the AGM in January. Carol our Treasurer has also resigned her post after a decade of service. A large thank you for all the hard work, ladies. We now have four ladies who keep MU running : Pat Sheppard, Linda Scoles, Gill Flower, Jill Rood, and our Treasurer is Mr. Peter Jones living in Gt. Barton.

We had already met together for social events so knew faces if not names. This is a fresh start for MU and we are enjoying the 2022 Programme. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm either in The Institute (if cold) or St. Peters/the Rock. It is easier now with restrictions lifted to begin to use the Rock again. There are 25 of us that meet and we have indoor members that receive literature from the Diocese MU which is keeping them informed.

We began to meet in September 2021 with a joint communion service, had a speaker (Rwanda) in October, Rev. Ben gave us a talk in November and we assisted in village Christmas fairs. December was an afternoon tea and entertainment, AGM in January, crafting in February, and World Day of Prayer held in separate villages in March. Refreshments are always available. We have a bring and buy stall and support causes such as knitted hats for Felixstowe, town pastors, Storehouse and MU Diocesan appeals.

I am sure that the 3 ladies would join me in thanking all members for their support particularly over the early stages of our joining together when we were feeling our way.

We advertise our meetings on the benefice website, Messenger and the parish newsletter.

Jill Rood March 2022

Safeguarding

This is on our agenda at every PCC meeting and we are complying with our duty of care given by the House of Bishops to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults in our church community. We have adopted the the Diocesan statement "Promoting a Safer Church".

The new method of applying for DBS clearance is working well. There are new members of staff in the Diocesan Safeguarding team who have updated the safeguarding training after the delay caused by the Covid pandemic, and all members of the PCC are able to access the Training on line. This is an ongoing necessity. There are no new dates for face to face training so far.

Mary Fawcett

PCC Secretary's Report – January 2021 - April 2022

We have held regular PCC meetings, by Zoom for much of 2021, but in person from September. We had full reports on financial, fabric and other aspects of the Church's life, and we discussed a wide range of matters, including the porch restoration and restoration of the windows, the East window being the most expensive; the restoration of activities (Meeting Point, Men's Breakfast and Café Church, the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair, amongst others); Church insurance; the amalgamation of St. Peter's and Holy Innocents Mothers Unions; Bibles for children leaving the Primary School, and many other things. In mid-April we had a "Section 11 meeting" with the acting Rural Dean and Lay Chair of Thingoe Deanery and the PCCs of both parishes, to consider and approve all aspects of the appointment of a new Vicar for the Benefice.

It is a privilege to serve Holy Innocents on the PCC, and it gives us a great sense of purpose and commitment.

We were delighted to welcome Rev'd Ben as our Vicar on 27th September, and it is a great pleasure to work with him. We have been very grateful to our Churchwardens, Tim Frost and Angela Pearce, for all they have done during the interregnum, to our retired clergy, and other priests in the Diocese who have taken services for us.

Jane Dalton

Benefice Website and Facebook:

The Benefice website and Facebook pages are an integral part of how we as a Church can communicate with everyone within our Parish. Along with The Messenger, we have a good opportunity to reach everyone, young and not so young. We are coming out of 2 years of restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Throughout this period the constant for us to communicate with our Parishioners, was the website and Facebook pages, along with the new online version of The Messenger. It is therefore important to ensure that we continue to use all available formats to communicate our events, services and fundraising requirements. The importance of the websites and Facebook is that these media formats can be changed by the day and even by the hour to update a change in our plans, whereas The Messenger (Printed Copy) is only printed once a month. Facebook is an excellent format to reach lots of people quickly, a recent advert saw 2000+ views, just for one article. This is the power of social media. Our figures for views on the Benefice website average 500+ views per month. The Messenger website does not attract large amounts of views as it is in its infancy as far as websites are concerned. We can improve this situation by provided more varied articles on village events. We have regular articles which is very pleasing but we need to ensure that we get the Gt Barton organisations involved by sharing their news and events with us. As well as the website we currently print 40 hard copies plus 1 Larger Print version. We can all help improve The Messenger by telling our friends and the organisations we belong to about The Messenger. Any articles should be sent to me at beneficepr@gmail.com by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

GDPR: The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) continues to be a part of everyone's lives. It's very difficult to monitor everything that goes on within the Church. I regularly check the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to check any updates that may affect The Benefice. I have noticed that on a few occasions when emails have been sent out to a group, that the names and email addresses are visible. Could I please ask, that we all remain vigilant that when emailing a group, please make sure that all addresses are entered in the BCC column. A recent example of this, was an email sent to an external company and copied to members of the group, did not confirm to this rule and all addresses were visible including private emails. The only address that should have been visible was the Company the email was addressed to (as this email is in the public domain). Please ensure that in future all emails comply with the BCC rule.

Peter Robinson