APCM 2023 Summary of reports

**PCC Annual Report for 2023**

**Background** The Parochial Church Council for St John the Baptist, Reedham has the responsibility of planning with the incumbent the whole task of the church in its caring, witnessing, social and ecumenical work. The responsibility includes the maintenance of the church building and churchyard. The Reedham Parish Council arranges and funds regular mowing of the church yard.

**Membership** Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

* Incumbent: The Reverend Martin Greenland
* Wardens: Mrs Kathleen Cowen; Mr Jonathan Lonsdale (Vice Chairman of PCC)
* Deanery Synod Rep: Mr Nicholas Cowen (Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod)
* Elected Members:-
  + Ms Isla Mcfadden (PCC Secretary)
  + Mrs Diana Gilder (Safeguarding Officer)
  + Mrs Rachel Holt (Electoral Roll Officer)
  + Mrs Charlotte Lonsdale (Treasurer)

**Report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2023**

The PCC held meetings in 2023 on 19th January, 20th April, 28th May, 6th July, 14th September and 16th November. Attendance overall was good.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens took place on 2nd April and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 28th May.

There were 11 services of Holy Communion and 16 services of Morning Prayer. There was also an Ash Wednesday Service, Ash Wednesday Service, Christingle Service and Crib Service. There were also four funerals one wedding and one baptism.

**Church Electoral Roll** **Report**

Rachel Holt (RH) reported that the electoral roll was reviewed on 9th May 2024.

There are currently 23 on the electoral roll.

**Financial Report**

Charlotte Lonsdale (CL) reports on the Financial Statements for Reedham PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Receipts**

Total receipts for the year are up by £8.5k at £24k (2021 - £15.5k).

Increases of note

* We have received a legacy of £5k
* Two fundraising events - Organ Crawl £4k and Jubilee Jolly £200
* Interest received has increased by £700
* Plate Offerings have increased by £700, with £500 of this increase relating to one off events - 2 funerals, one of which we catered at, the Jubilee Service and a School event. Remaining increase is explained by the no. of services increasing
* Other Donations have increased by £600 due to a couple of large one-off donations
* Statutory fees were up by £700 with the no. of events being variable year on year
* Bell Fund donations have increased by £300, £200 of which is due to a one-off donation

Decreases of note

* Receipts for Charity of the month are down by £500
* Regular Given is down by £3.3k

**Payments**

Total payments for the year have increased by £5k to £23.5k (2021 – 18.5k). Taking out the payments resulting from the organ crawl of £4k this is broadly in line year on year.

Increases

* The choir payments have increased by £700
* Charity payments and clergy expenses were £1.1k higher due to catching up on payments from 2021
* Magazine expenses are up by £600
* Electricity has increased by £400 which is due to a combination of more services and higher charges

Decreases

* Fewer repairs/maintenance for church and churchyard with no new fixtures and fittings being purchased result in a decrease of £1.9k
* The parish share paid was lower due to a combination of 2021 having included a top up payment from 2020 and the organ crawl contribution

**Funds**

This year the financial statements show an excess of receipts over payments of £1k (2021 - £2.9k).

However, taking off the following outliers:

* We received a £5k legacy
* £1k of payments relate to monthly charity and clergy expenses for 2021 that would ordinarily have been paid in that year
* Choir payment of £1.2 were made which were designed to better utilise that fund

Therefore, a more realistic change in funds is an excess of payments over receipts of £2k.

This has resulted in the general funds having decreased by £4k whilst the restricted funds have increased by £5k.

Looking at the funds themselves:

* The bell fund is building with an increase of £600
* The benefice choir fund has decreased by £1.1k with the remaining fund down to £1.2k
* The Fabric Maintenance fund has increased by £5k – due to the legacy.

**Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church**

Edward Gilder(EG) Fabric Officer reports - The leaking roof got progressively worse during 2023 and at time I despaired of ever finding an affordable solution, as builders failed to respond to emails and phone calls. However a chance conversation with Robert More from Tunstall gave me the name of a roofer who might be able to do the job.

At last I can report that the roof has been fixed and the water ingress via both the nave and chancel roofs should now stop. Fortunately there were no signs of damage to the roof timbers from the leaks and the whole roof has been re-felted and battened with every other tile being screwed down. A huge thank you to Lee Stewart and his men who worked in some very difficult conditions and lost too many days to bad weather. It was the biggest roof they had ever worked on, and I think they have done a great job. I haven’t seen the roof looking so good in 40 years, so let’s hope it stays that way after next winters storms

The quinquennial inspection has identified a number of other smaller areas of work which need attention, but none as significant as the roof. On the whole Nicholas Warns, the church architect, considers Reedham to be one of the better maintained churches in his care. Having now emptied the restoration fund of all its cash, further work, without grant assistance, to repair the water damaged ceiling, may take some time, assuming that I can find anyone to do it.

There are no other fabric items to report.

**Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding is at the heart of the Christian faith and is central to a healthy Christian community. Reedham Church takes safeguarding seriously and is committed to good safeguarding practice, to ensure the safety of children, young people and adults.

**Parish Safeguarding Dashboard**

To help it keep up to date with safeguarding requirements, Reedham Church is registered with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. This is regularly updated by me, the Parish Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are invited to log onto the dashboard, to check progress.

Using its headings and a traffic light system, a summary of progress is below:

* Policies and Action Plan – relevant sections complete.
* Safeguarding Procedures (reporting concerns) – almost complete.
* Safeguarding Roles (Parish Safeguarding Officer, DBS administrator, Church Wardens safeguarding responsibilities etc) – complete.
* Training for Key Roles – PCC member needs to complete safeguarding training.
* Learning and Development – PCC member needs to complete foundation pathway training.
* Displayed Information – complete.
* Church Activities (includes Open the Book) – almost complete.
* Safer Recruitment and People Management – complete as far as possible. Review by the Benefice PSOs is ongoing.
* Reviews and Reports (PCC standing agenda item, annual reports) - complete

**Confidential Declarations**

Renewed every three years. All of these are up to date and stored securely in Reedham Church.

**DBS checks**

Renewed every three years. All of these are up to date.

**General**

Reedham PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).