

St Peter Manningford Bruce

Annual report 2024

PCC membership

Total membership as at 31 December was 11. Three members left during 2024 (Robin Gamble, Angus and Lucy Palmer). Four new members joined during the year, who have brought fresh energy and enthusiasm to the church community: George Clarke (treasurer), Milly Woodard (secretary), Andrew Marshall and Kate John. Remaining members were John Thompson-Ashby (churchwarden), Dick and Margot Andrews, Myffy Sampson, Genevieve Benest, Caroline Cornell and Gavin Peebles.

PCC meetings

There were four meetings during the year, plus the APCM in April. Matters discussed included service arrangements, revision to the prayer book, income generation, repairs to the fabric and maintenance to the churchyard.

Services

A total of 26 services were held during the year, including a baptism, plus one graveside burial. Overall attendance figures were 573 compared with 550 in 2023. Figures for major festivals were generally higher, including a record attendance for the carol service, with literally standing room only. The latter benefitted from the decision to involve younger readers who excelled. Average attendance figures were slightly lower, with the 'Worshipping Community' figure standing at 11..

The pet service was held in church, with a similar attendance in previous years.

Our thanks go to all clergy who have taken services during the year, especially Rhona Floate.

Our regular organist Genevieve Benest has played at the majority of services during the year, assisted when required by Ian Postlethwaite; we are very grateful to them both.

Floral and cleaning team.

Cleaning and decoration of the church has benefitted from new members of the team and highlights included posies for Mothering Sunday and wonderful displays for the choral concert in June and major festivals. Our thanks to everyone in the team.

Fundraising

A choral concert evening was held in June to raise funds for repair to the church roof, which resulted in a significant 'protected' sum being raised for existing and future maintenance to the fabric of the church. (See annual accounts for detail.)

Church fabric and churchyard

Repairs were undertaken to the north roof slope necessitating the replacement of over 200 tiles. Lime mortar repointing was carried out to the east face of the porch. Tree stump removal was undertaken to the churchyard, together with repair to the west boundary wall. A gravestone was also up-righted.

The electrical circuits have been overhauled, including new switchgear and the circuits tested. Portable appliances have also been tested.

Projects

A cashless payment machine was installed in the church, together with internet access, which has enabled credit and debit card payments from parishioners and visitors. During its first year it generated in excess of £300 and this should continue to build, as many people no longer carrying cash.

A church newsletter has been produced as a means of communicating with those on the electoral roll, a number of which rarely if ever, attend church and who are probably unaware of the activities and services in church. Two editions were produced, with more planned.

The parish reference manual has now been completed and is kept in church.

Inventory

There have been no major changes to the inventory apart from the acquisition of equipment for the cashless payment system. One of the two original keys to the main door was discovered behind the organ, also added to the inventory. The keys are currently in safe keeping with the churchwarden.

Safeguarding

The PCC complies with section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and the safeguarding policy is displayed on the church noticeboard.

Signed

John Thompson-Ashby

Churchwarden