

*The Diocese
Of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*

**Annual Report & Financial Statements
Of the
Parochial Church Council
Of St Andrew's Church, Marlesford, Suffolk**

For the year ended 31st December 2017

**Prepared under the Receipts and Payments
Accounting Basis**

General information

Church Address: St Andrew's Church
Church Road
Marlesford
Suffolk IP13 0AT

Priest in charge (until August 25th)
The Reverend Deirdre West
Smokey House
The Common
Tunstall IP12 2JR
01728 688340

Bankers: Church of England Deposit Fund
St Alphage House
2 Fore Street
London EC2Y 5AQ

CAF Cash Ltd
King's Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4TA

Examiner: Mrs Carol Parry

Church Membership

Electoral Roll (Resident):	16
Average fortnightly adult attendance:	15
Average fortnightly young persons' attendance:	0
Average monthly adult communicants:	16
Average monthly young person's communicants:	0

Please note that there is generally only one Communion service a month at St Andrew's, and one service of Evening Prayers.

Aims and Objectives

The Revd Deirdre West, while in post, retired clergy and lay elders have continued to work closely to provide us with a minimum of two services each month. In addition the PCC has worked hard to build and develop links with our village and with other parishes in the Benefice.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative Rules.

Priest in Charge: The Reverend Deirdre West (until August 25th)

Churchwardens: Lord Marlesford
Mrs Nancy Waterfall

**Deanery Synod
Representative:** Mrs Nancy Waterfall

Elected Members: Mrs Mary Allen (Secretary)
Mrs Carol Cooke (Treasurer)
Mrs Imogen Hayward
Mrs Diana Howard
Mrs Brenda Lavender
Mrs Nicola Stacey (elected on November 8th at the PCC meeting)
Mr Roger Waterfall

Mrs Carol Cooke became interim Treasurer after the resignation of Carol Parry at the end of February 2017, until the APCM when she was elected and confirmed as Treasurer

Standing

Committee: Priest in Charge, two churchwardens, treasurer and secretary.

Overall Review of the year

The PCC met four times in 2017. During 2017 Growing in God has continued to be the focus of our parochial work as we moved towards the unification of our seven parishes into the new Benefice of Orebeck, which occurred in July. From the Autumn onwards we worked with the rest of the Benefice on establishing a firm financial commitment to the Centenary Share for 2018.

Church Services and Mission

- The Eucharist for St Andrew's, Marlesford, is held each fourth Sunday in the month. A United Benefice Eucharist visits each of the seven parishes in turn on the first, third, and where appropriate, the fifth Sunday of each month.
- Evening prayers, usually led by John Bradfield, Lay Elder, take place on the second Sunday of each month, and we really appreciate his commitment.
- In March we had our only Baptism of the year, Archdeacon Ian Morgan's granddaughter. It was lovely to see so many young people in church
- Before Easter, we had Compline in March and a Good Friday meditation. In November we had a Remembrance service on All Souls, November 2nd and these three services gave us the opportunity for deeper contemplation.
- Harvest service took place in October when the church looked really beautiful. All food items donated were sent to a local food bank.

- Our Carols for Christmas Eve saw a large congregation of all ages enjoying a good singalong. We welcomed one and all with mulled wine (or a soft drink) and mince pies which helped us feel festive and that Christmas really was round the corner. We were delighted to have the Revd Graham Hedger with us; he had previously been rota-ed in to lead the service, but we were able to welcome him as our priest designate, along with his wife Sue.
- Our Christmas Day Family Communion was well attended. It was a wonderful service.
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- The Benefice Elders throughout the year have willingly played a role in our services, either by reading or leading Intercessory prayers.
- We are very grateful to our three organists, Graeme Hall, Doreen Pelletier and our newest recruit, Archdeacon Ian Morgan.

Community Initiatives

- The monthly cake stall in church continues to prove very popular and has many regular customers. In December, as a “Thank You” to our customers, we offer coffee and mince pies. The December sale is particularly successful at raising fund. The church is increasingly accepted as a communal meeting place.

Maintaining our church and churchyard.

- In the Autumn the central heating boiler was serviced and the engineer gave us his opinion that its lifespan is limited.
- We continue to lock our church gate at night as a precaution against lead theft, and thank as those who step in as “relief gatekeepers”.
- We are grateful to Susan Wilson for organising the flower rota. Thank you to the flower arrangers and the rota of cleaners for their continuing commitment to keeping our church looking so well cared for. We also thank those who have cut the grass in the churchyard.
- The fire extinguishers have been serviced and all electrical items have been PAT checked.
- Richard Cooper and Susan Wilson have generously offered to plant appropriate native hedging to the left of the main gate to fill gaps.

Policies

- Pam Bennett--King is Safeguarding Officer for the seven parishes. The policy is on the notice-board in the porch. We are aware that all those connected with church will need some training in the coming years.

- The Disability policy has been reviewed and we have created a disabled parking area opposite the porch entrance.

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Deanery Synod

- Nan Waterfall attended the meeting held in Winston in September, when the new Safeguarding Guidelines were introduced and the need for training stressed.

Finance and Fundraising

- Parish share – we achieved the amount to which we had committed St Andrew's in 2017, which was £8,000, an increase of £250 over that of 2016.
- The Church Fete was held on 2nd September at the Community Centre, and the total raised was £1,409.95 despite torrential rain prior to our 2pm start.
- The monthly cake stall raised £907 during the year, excluding the sum raised at the cake stall at the fete.
- We were able to donate to the Kagera appeal, not just as a result of the Lent Lunches, but also as individuals.
- Our collection at the Pets' service was given to the Animal Health trust, based in Newmarket

The Interregnum

- Co-operation between retired clergy and lay elders gave us continuity of worship.
- We participated fully in meetings working towards the appointment of a new incumbent.
- The Section 11 meeting took place at Parham on the First of November and during November Nan Waterfall worked with Carol Rook from Easton on coordinating the parish profiles and general introduction which formed the Benefice profile for applications for the position of Priest-in-charge.
- On December 10th Marlesford hosted a Benefice buffet supper for all Benefice churchwardens and PCC members to meet the applicant prior to his interview on December 11th in the Archdeaconry. Following the interview the Benefice recommended to the Bishop that he should consider appointing the applicant.
- Before Christmas Bishop Martin confirmed that he had appointed the Revd Graham Hedges as our new Incumbent.

A message from the Rural Dean:

I am writing as the Rural Dean and I am very grateful for all the hard work that is being put into the life of the Churches during the vacancy. This is a real sign of the importance of your faith and the life of the Church to your community. You have shared stories with me and I am very grateful to wardens, elders and to retired clergy who are helping Christian worship and witness to continue. A

special word of thanks to the Revd Canons Deirdre Parmenter and Richard Ginn for all their work. We all owe a debt to Wardens and Elders – and those who double up!

The process has been got through efficiently and it is wonderful that the Revd Canon Graham Hedger takes up ministry and mission with you on May 16th at 7.30 at Hacheston. Please support him and one another by coming on that day and making it very special.

This is a challenging time to be in a vacancy. With the concerns around safeguarding and the new General Data Protection Regulations it has made life busier still, please continue to support your Wardens.

With 13 parishes in vacancy as well as Framlingham and Saxtead I have offered to come to APCMs as necessary rather than trying hard to get to all of them. Forgive me for this. I have said what I would have said above. Plus I would have shared that we have words of God's truth and beauty to share which our communities need to hear, but don't fully realise. Plus I would have prayed with you – in my absence physically I share a prayer now:

Heavenly Father your love creates us, help us to be creative with you

Lord Jesus your love saves us, help us to be aware of people who need your love

Powerful Spirit, turn our hearts towards the Father's love that we may be your people.

Thank you for all you are doing

Mark Sanders

Financial report

See separate document