**Sedgebrook APCM 2024**

**AGENDA**

**Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)**

1. Prayer
2. Minutes of Meeting from 2023
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Prayer for new Churchwardens

**Annual General Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Meeting from 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports -

Electoral Roll

Churchwardens including Fabric

Treasurer

Governor’s report

Deanery Synod

Safeguarding Report

Minister’s Report:

1. Elections:

Election of PCC Members

Ex-officio (Chair), Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Rep

1. Appointment of Independent Examiner
2. Safeguarding review of Policy
3. Parishioners’ Questions
4. Date of next APCM

**PCC mtg following the APCM:**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of PCC officers
   1. Lay-Vice Chair
   2. Treasurer
   3. Secretary
   4. Electoral Roll Officer
   5. Safeguarding officer (local independent person)
3. Signing of “Fit and Proper” declaration by all PCC members (including CW’s, Deanery synod reps etc)

**APCM Meeting 2024**

**APCM Meeting Held 2023**

Attached Separately (These are the minutes sent from Mary McKinley from the jot meeting last year)

**Electoral Roll**

Attached Separately

**Church Warden’s Report/ Fabric Report/ Flower Report**

Holy Communion services were originally held on the second Sunday of the month, with morning prayer or lively church on the fourth Sunday. This had to be modified as Stella Langdon Davies felt she was not well enough to continue, so we agreed to go to Allington Church on the first Sunday for Holy Communion and have Morning Prayer on the second Sunday and Lively Church on the fourth Sunday at Sedgebrook. The PCC would like to pass on their thanks for her help in providing Holy Communion for ourselves and Allington. Allington Church were invited to our morning prayer services.

The year started with an Epiphany service on the 8th January and we held a further 30 services throughout the year. The World Day of Prayer service, in March, was held at Long Bennington Methodist Church. Allington with Sedgebrook School held their annual Easter service on 6th April with a congregation of approx. 200. There was a special thanksgiving service for the coronation on the 7th of May. 2 Baptisms were held during the year, as well as our Patronal Festival, Harvest and Remembrance services. We also had 4 services including 2 Holy Communion Services taken by Father James Titley, who moved on to another posting in July. We finished the year with our annual Christmas tree lighting and carol services.

Both White House Farm Nursery and Allington with Sedgebrook schools held their nativity services in December. The church was full to capacity on both occasions.

My swearing in this year took place in Stamford and I was accompanied by members of the PCC. Actions regarding the church fabric were also carried out, mainly removal of Ivy growth, but we still have a number of other works to do in accordance with the 2022 Quinquennial Survey, which is ongoing, funds permitting. The graveyard extension was finally approved by the Registrar and consecrated by the Bishop of Grantham after our Harvest service. Proceeds from the service went to Grantham Poverty Action.

An archway has been created between the existing and new graveyards. New plans which were drawn up to identify existing graves in the graveyard show only 5 available plots. The extension will provide a further 130 plus plots. Trees and hedging ordered from Woodland Trust and planted by UK Probation Service were growing well, but there may be some which have not taken, which will need to be replaced.

The church was still offered as a venue for the Winter’s Singers, and they have kindly attended appropriate services, especially Christmas. The church building remained open every day throughout the year from 10am until 4pm for visitors. Our book exchange was widely used.

Chris Hinds provided the annual tuning service for our Bryson organ.

Flowers were again provided throughout the year by Geraldine Statham.

We have an enthusiastic team of bellringers, who are being coached by Paul Meredith. It is hoped we could renovate our bells in the future, so they can be rung rather than just chimed. Unfortunately, one the bell clappers has become detached and will need a repair.

The museum has provided another community asset and the Heritage Group continue to meet monthly. We have to thank Elisabeth Carnell for her diligence in providing this facility. Monthly afternoon coffee and cakes were well attended throughout the year and the nursery school children use the play area on a regular basis.

A big thank you to the PCC and all other willing helpers, the graveyard maintenance team, clock winders, cleaners, flower arrangers, book, produce and charity donors, not forgetting the refreshment providers and servers, who all enabled us to continue.

**Alan Cook Churchwarden**

**Treasurer’s Report (year-ending 31 December 2023)**

**Attached Separately**

**Parish Magazine Report**

**Attached Separately**

**Foundation Governor Report to Allington/Sedgebrook**

**No Report this year**

**Deanery Synod Report**

There have been no Deanery Synod meetings in the 2023/2024 APCM year; indeed, there has been no Rural Dean in post since the end of September 2023.

However, in the summer of 2023 a Steering Group was formed, with representation from all 9 Loveden West parishes, to oversee the recruitment process for clergy to replace Father James, who left the post in June 2023. The position was advertised in early January 2024, but no applications to fill the post were received; the position will now be advertised again, for a period of 4 weeks, commencing on 29 March 2024, with the aim of having an incumbent in-post by late-summer.

P S Owen,

St Swithun’s representative on the Loveden West Steering Group.

**Safeguarding Report**

Very little to report on safeguarding this year, which can only be a good sign.

We have no regular children or young people attending our services, but it is used frequently by the White House Farm Nursery and occasionally by Allington with Sedgebrook School, whose staff have a duty of care whenever the children are in the Church building.

All the PCC Members have met the necessary DBS and Safeguarding conditions.

Jenny Stuart has renewed her DBS and completed Safeguarding C2, Safer Recruitment requirements.

I have C0 and C1 certificates and yet to complete the C2 course.

We now have a poster in church showing me as Safeguarding Officer.

Alan Cook

**ANNUAL REPORT ON PCC ACTIVITIES AND MINISTER’S REPORT**

Firstly, we would like to thank all those who have supported St Lawrence Church in so many ways over the last year. Our PCC has worked tirelessly for the good of the community with particular thanks to Alan our churchwarden and Ian our treasurer without whose skills and dedication the church could not function and who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for St Lawrence church. We are fortunate to have a great team around the church with those on the electoral roll contributing to the life of the church in many ways.

Although finances have been difficult and demands high, we are pleased to have paid our covenant in full. Our charitable giving has also continued with Marie Curie Cancer Care and Grantham Poverty Action.

The church has been open daily from 10am-4pm. Quite a few people have been dropping in, and the nursery has enjoyed the children's corner. We have loved having the church and nursery in church for services during Christmas and Easter and have attracted visitors from far and wide, including the Churches Group of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and Dr Chris Brooke from Nottingham University.

We are deeply appreciative of the support Elisabeth Carnell has given in heading up the Museum and Heritage Group. Particular appreciation was shown by the Ogilvy family on the memorial display for The Hon. James Ogilvy and for the Remembrance exhibition. The exciting visit of Prof. Chris Brooke to survey the church using LIDAR technology has revealed the possibility of a large medieval wall painting on the 12th century north wall of the church.

Elisabeth has produced a delightful illustrated children’s booklet “A Teddy Bear’s Picnic at St Lawrence Church”. Copies were given to the children at the nursery and are for sale in church. The Markham Bear, featured in the booklet, makes regular appearances at special events!

We would also like to thank Malcolm, Mike, and Billy for all they have done to keep the cemetery so tidy and attractive. It has been much appreciated by those visiting their loved ones. Also, our grateful thanks to Lady Caroline and her team for mowing the churchyard. We are now moving to obtain outside help to mow the cemetery using the Parish Council mowing team.

The Probation Service planted trees to screen the cemetery extension from the allotment and Bishop Nicholas consecrated the extension at our Harvest Festival service.

We continue to try and make the church as warm and welcoming as possible and, with the help of a small bequest for that purpose, we are looking at improving the heating in the church. Our hopes for a disabled toilet and servery are still on the agenda for the future. We are also addressing outstanding quinquennial works.

We were sad to hear of the death of Dick Kelham who managed the allotments for the church. Malcolm Stuart, with the help of John Castle has now taken this over and all allotments are now taken except for Dick’s plot. Members of the PCC attended Dick’s funeral at Irnham Church.

Fundraising events including Afternoon Teas, taking part in Coronation celebrations and a Fashion Show have helped the church operating expenses, and the 200 Club will be in aid of the church in 2024.

Following a Transformational Grant to purchase Lego, craft materials and a superb giant Fuzzy Felt which tells every bible story, Lively Church has continued but with small numbers and we continue to seek younger members to help run it. Due to family circumstances Jenny Stuart has had to resign as Governor at the School. Headteacher Leanne Barr retired from the school and will be much missed. We were delighted to recruit a new headteacher, Victoria Hammond, who joined the school this year and it has been a pleasure working with her.

We also said goodbye to Father James Titley, formerly a curate at St Wulfram’s, who had spent a year at Long Bennington Rectory working on Time to Change Together, the Diocesan reorganisation of churches. During this time, he supported services in the Benefice. We are now advertising for a new incumbent for the Saxonwell and Claypole churches and Alan Cook is the lead representative for St Lawrence, with Jenny Stuart as reserve.

Jenny Stuart, on reaching the age of 70, is now Permission to Officiate and conduct Funerals as she continues her work as Authorised Lay Minister. She has completed Safeguarding training for Leaders, Domestic Abuse Awareness and Safer Recruitment Training and, as Foundation Governor, was part of the team to recruit the new Headteacher for Allington with Sedgebrook C of E Primary School. Jenny continues to take a monthly service of Morning Prayer at St Lawrence and the monthly Lively Church. She has also assisted at funerals at Long Bennington and the All Souls’ Service there. Due to the lack of clergy support, we travel to Holy Trinity, Allington for Holy Communion and both churches have supported each other’s services and events and share the APCM meeting.

Baptisms of Myrna Wilson and Aria Rigney took place during the year. Funerals of Hon. James Ogilvy and Chris Cartner took place during the year.

We end the year having achieved great things for the church and the community and working well together for the good of the village, but we are conscious that we need a succession plan as we are not getting any younger. We pray that a new incumbent will come forward for our parishes to lead us into the future.

Jenny Stuart

PCC Secretary and Licensed Lay Minister

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