

# ST.BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, LULLINGSTONE



## Annual Report for 2017

**Incumbent (Rector)** Reverend Gary Owen.

**Curate** Reverend Dorothy McGarvey

**Readers** Mr.Peter Davis, Mrs.Jan Thompson

**Diocesan Evangelist** Mr.Peter Sansom

**Licensed Lay Minister** Ms Tina Watson

**Background** St.Botolph's Church, together with St.Martins's, Eynsford & St.Peter and St.Paul's, Farningham form the Benefice of Eynsford with Farningham and Lullingstone. Each parish has its own Parochial Church Council and is responsible for the maintenance of its own church buildings and churchyard. Although the parishes operate independently they cooperate closely, holding united services in rotation, study days, home groups and other common initiatives. The Benefice Council set up in 2008 has established structures of administration, pastoral care and oversight of financial arrangements within the Benefice. Each PCC appoints 4 representatives to serve on the Council. In addition representatives from the worship, preaching and teaching team, pastoral team, mission and children and young people groups are invited to attend as non voting members.

**Membership** At the 2017 Annual Church Meeting there were 38 members on the Church Electoral Roll. There has been one addition since the last ACM. 26 live in the United Benefice (of whom 12 are within Lullingstone parish).

### The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity.

Ex-Officio members:

The Rector: Revd.Gary Owen (chairman), Curate: Revd.Dorothy McGarvey

The Churchwardens: Mr.George Comer (vice chairman), Miss Jane Wills

Elected members: Mr. Tony Chapman, Mr.Peter Hill, Mr.Brian Mason, Mrs.Pamela Mason, Ms.Jan Mitchener, Ms.Kass Pateman.

Deanery Synod Representative: Mr.George Comer

At the first meeting of the PCC after the 2017 Annual Meeting Peter Hill was appointed as Electoral Roll Officer. Pamela Mason was appointed Secretary. Four PCC members were elected to serve on the Benefice Council: Tony Chapman, George Comer, Peter Hill and Jane Wills. As substitutes are allowed Jan Mitchener agreed to attend in place of Tony Chapman when he is unable to do so. Brian Mason (as Benefice Treasurer) was subsequently co-opted by the Benefice Council as a non-voting member. Kass Pateman agreed to continue to serve as the PCC representative on the committee of the Friends of St.Botolph's Church.

The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, the two Churchwardens, and 2 PCC members (usually the Treasurer and Secretary).

Between Annual Church Meetings the PCC met 4 times. During the year the PCC received regular reports from the Benefice Council, and the Friends of St.Botolph's Church. The PCC received reports from George Comer of meetings of the Deanery Synod which resumed following the appointment of Revd.Tim Hatwell as Rural Dean.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Mr.Peter Davis is currently our Parish Safeguarding Children's and Adult's Representative.

## **Review of the year**

Weekly services were maintained, Matins being celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and Holy Communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and on each of the major festivals. On Wednesday mornings Morning Prayer and Litany were said in the Church. Junior church is held on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, organised by Helen Owen and Joanna Comer. The PCC is grateful to the Castle for the use of their marquee for Junior church.

Four baptisms and two weddings took place during the year.

The funeral service for Oscar Bayley (who died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016) was held on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Oscar served Lullingstone as a Reader and a member of the PCC for many years.

The funeral service for Keith Poynter, a long standing member of our congregation, was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Two burials of ashes took place and memorial plaques were installed on the churchyard wall.

Two groups from St.Olave's School visited during May.

Hextable Scouts, who were camping at Hulberry, attended a service in October and paraded their flags.

Deanery Pentecost Picnic Praise was held at Lullingstone in June.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July we expressed our thanks to Peter Davis for his 40 years service to the Benefice as Reader.

A United Benefice service followed by a picnic on the lawn was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

In September the church was open to welcome participants in the annual Friends of Kent Churches "Ride and Stride".

A Harvest Evensong service for the United Benefice was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

A "Christmas card" invitation to our Christmas services was delivered to every household in the parish and displayed on local notice boards.

Refreshments are served following morning service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. This is a popular opportunity for members of the congregation to socialise and welcome new members of the congregation.

The average Sunday attendance figure throughout 2017 was 20. The average Sunday attendance figure for Sundays in October was 19. Attendance on Easter Day was 31 and on Christmas morning 40. Our traditional "candlelit" carol service attracted 56 people including children.

At all morning services in St.Botolph's the form of worship follows the Book of Common Prayer (1662) and the Authorised King James version of the Bible is used. There is a rota for ringing the single bell prior to morning service.

Morning and Evening Prayer are said most days by individuals or families, in their homes or in the church, to pray for our parish. This daily prayer rota has continued successfully since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and will continue in 2018. The church is open every day as a place for private prayer and quiet meditation and receives many visitors.

There is a rota for organists: Kevin Grafton, Derek Wallis, Alan Saunders and Yvonne Jelley play regularly, David and Liz Meachin, and Barrie Paine also played occasionally. We are grateful to all of them for giving their time and expertise.

The Friends of St.Botolph's have held 2 excellent events in support of the maintenance of the church.

The Friends are to supply and manage a prayer book for use of anyone who wishes prayers said.

A spring cleaning day was held in April. Volunteers regularly clean the church, supplemented since the autumn by monthly professional cleaning paid for by the Friends. The Friends have also financed annual gutter cleaning. The flower arrangements were of an exceptional standard throughout the year. We are very grateful to all who contribute to the life of our church in so many ways.

## Finance

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 was prepared by the treasurer, Brian Mason, independently examined by Frank Rogers and approved by the PCC. The bank current account is held at Barclays Bank plc. The General Account income was £ 30,388 and expenditure was £ 28,134 resulting in a small surplus of £ 2,254. However, without a legacy of £5,000 the PCC would be reporting a deficit.

The position in 2017 remained generally satisfactory, despite the greatly increased contribution “offer” required by the Diocese which replaced the previous stipend and parish share figure. Unfortunately a letter outlining the financial position from the treasurer to all on the electoral roll, other regular attenders, baptism and wedding couples resulted in a minimal improvement to planned giving. It is essential that planned giving by members is maintained and if possible increased to meet the Diocesan requirements and to keep the church open for worship.

Using part of a legacy from the estate of Doreen Spence (who died in 2016 having served as churchwarden for 18 years) the PCC purchased a memorial bench for the churchyard, new collection bags and refurbished 2 chairs kept at the back of the church.

A grant of £150 was received from the Eynsford Parish Council towards maintenance of the churchyard. The PCC is grateful to all who support the church by giving their time and financial contributions.

The PCC was able to give £1,905 to charity. Charities supported were: Children Change Columbia (formerly Children of the Andes), Church Housing Trust, Combat Stress, Demelza Hospice, National Churches Trust, Open Doors, Porchlight, Royal British Legion, The Children’s Society, The Prayer Book Society.

**Reading Trust** The property purchased at Borough Green in 2016 has continued to be let and managed by Ibbett Mosely on our behalf. Proceeds from the rent (in 2017 £12,643 after expenses) are held in the Trust for maintenance of the church fabric. The income cannot be used for day to day running of the church. Details of funds held are shown separately in the annual financial statement.

## Church Fabric

The next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2018. All work recommended in 2013 has been carried out.

On behalf of the PCC

Churchwardens \_\_\_\_\_ George Comer \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Wills

PCC Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Pamela Mason