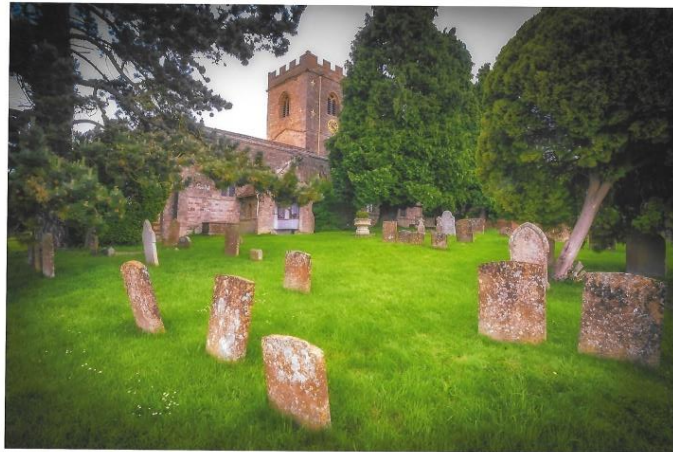


**The 2018 Annual Report
Of the Parochial Church Council
For the Parish of**

**St Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon
with Weston and Plumpton**



**St Mary & St. Peter, Lois Weedon
with Weston and Plumpton**

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APCM Meeting – Welcome

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1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Parish of St Mary and St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton

Held at St Loys Academy Hall

Saturday, 29th April 2017 10:30

In Attendance

Carole Peters-King (CP-K), Barry Peters-King (BP-K), Sue James (SJ), Tricia French (TF), Chris Getley (CG), Margaret Seckington (MS), Diane Hunt (DH), Vicki and Mike Streten, (VS/MiS), Sarah Webb (SWe), Sarah Williams (SWi), Terry Tyler (TT), Clyde Burbidge (CB), Jenni Liversidge (JL), Frank Hunter (FH), Jill Jones (JJ), Caroline Raven (CR), Gill Pinder (GP), Sally Neville (SN)

Apologies: Caroline Hunt

CP-K explained that, due to a mistake in transposition, last year's accounts are not correct so the Annual PCC meeting could not take place and a new date would be set, therefore only the Annual Vestry Meeting would take place today.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held at St Loys Academy on Tuesday, 19th April 2016 were proposed by SJ, seconded by SWi and agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

Matters arising

No matters arising

Election of Church Warden

Frank Hunter was nominated as Church Warden by MiS, seconded by MS and elected with unanimous agreement. Frank's 'Fit for purpose' form has been received and he was thanked for his continuing hard work.

The Vestry Meeting was closed at this point.

Discussion regarding Accounts

As there were a number of questions related to the accounts it was agreed that there should follow some discussion about the accounts, a summary of which follows.

CP-K explained that there had been some confusion between benefice costs and the amount paid in Parish Shares: they had been transposed and so the accounts were incorrect and would need to be done again. The new accounts will be issued in church this weekend.

There were questions about the late submission of the accounts, the timing of payments and the reclamation of tax. CP-K, FH and SJ explained how these came about and how they have an impact on the preparation of the accounts.

There were a couple of requests for a breakdown of the benefice expenses to be made available for viewing in the accounts, rather than just block figures, as people are interested to know how funds are being spent, especially if they are to be asked to donate either greater amounts or on more occasions.

CP-K and FH gave an explanation of the various expenses throughout the year and of the way in which ministry/ benefice expenses are calculated and paid, including the most recent increases and percentages.

Further discussion highlighted the need to look to the future and ensure that the PCC ask the Friends to really help the church get back on an even keel.

A significant problem appears to be the lack of support in recent years for fundraising events and discussion followed on how choice of/attendance at these events could be improved. Other parishes have a rolling set of fundraising events which are well supported. Because collections in these parishes are in the form of standing orders the church can budget more easily and receive gift aid.

Appropriate fundraising events, publicity of these events and ways in which to involve a greater number of the school's pupils and parents more actively in church life were discussed.

The "dying church" as a nationwide problem was highlighted, along with the need to co-operate with other churches in order for the parish to survive.

Also amongst the current problems is the lack of continuity between young and old now that Messy Church is finishing. A suggestion was made that maybe the return of Sunday School would improve attendance and provide some structured biblical learning for the children. It was pointed out that parents want a service in which the children can take part; there is a bible story each service that starts the children out on a journey so that parents and children feel they want to come back. Could we maybe approach the head teacher at the school regarding assisting the church with fundraising?

There has been talk about the possibility of having a church stall at the May Day Fayre. Another suggestion was made to charge the school to use the church. However we need to look at what we provide to the children at the school.

Also mentioned was the lack of appreciation of the fact that funds have to pay for the daily costs of ministry and running the church, not just the fabric of the church. People seem to be willing to contribute far more readily to raising funds for the fabric but not for the daily ministry and running costs, many of which are often overlooked eg insurance and electricity.

More envelopes have been ordered for donations in church and a request was made that the second box in church should be replaced. Currently collections in church do not go very far at all towards meeting expenses.

It was pointed out that fewer services meant fewer collections: however this is the only parish where donations have gone down. Other parishes give by standing order so donations are consistent.

Suggestions were made for the expenses to be displayed in church and for them to be included in the parish newsletter.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the PCC is now held responsible for the finances of the church, though not accountable for any debt.

The new accounts will be posted in church and a request made for these to remain in place. Separate copies can be provided if required (TF will print).

Thanks were given to all those who have helped with cleaning and maintenance jobs in and around the church this year.

Frank was also thanked for all he has done this year.

Attention was brought to the comprehensive cleaning up job done by Sarah Webb, Jill Jones, Jenni Liversidge and their team and appreciation expressed.

New date for the PCC meeting: June 5th at 6 pm in church.

2. Electoral Roll

Allen, Patricia	Fieldgate Moreton Pinkney	NR
Burbidge, Oliver Clyde	Kettle End, Lois Weedon	R
Clarke, David	North End, High Street, Weston	R
Clarke, Margaret Lynne	North End, High Street, Weston	R
French, Patricia Ann	The Leys, Lois Weedon	R
George, Kay Valerie	2 Grove, Lane Weston	R
Getley, Bridgit	Hall Farm, Weston	R
Getley, Annabel Mary	Hall Farm, Weston	R
Getley, Christopher	Hall Farm, Weston	R
Greenaway, Susan Margaret	Lois Weedon House, Lois Weedon	R
Gregory, Iris	The Old Barn, Weedon Lois	R
Gregory, Alfred John	The Old Barn, Lois Weedon	R
Hazलगrove, Robert Philip	StLoys School, Lois Weedon	NR
Hillman, Geoffrey Donald	2, The Green, Lois Weedon	R
Hunt, Caroline Ann Heidi	89 Clare Crescent, Towcester	NR
Hunt, Diane Cecilia	Andlem, Blakesley Hill, Greens Norton	NR
Hunter, Maralynn Caroline	Castle Mound, Lois Weedon	R
Hunter, Francis Noel	Castle Mound, Lois Weedon	R
James, Sue	Holly Tree Cottage, Lois Weedon	R
James, Colin John	Holly Tree Cottage, Lois Weedon	R
Jones, Penelope Christine	2, Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon	R
Jones, David Montgomery	2, Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon	R
Jones, Jillian Dawn	Home Close, Weston	R
Liversidge, Jennifer Irene	18 Middlethorpe, Lois Weedon	R
Mackaness, Anna Sophia	2 Milthorpe, Lois Weedon	R
Mackaness, Jean	Grove House, Weston	R
Peters-King Barry	The Rectory	R
Pinder Jill	Middlethorpe	R
Raven, Caroline Susan	Croft Farm, Lois Weedon	R
Seckington, Christine	Stonehouse Farm, Weston	R
Seckington, Margaret Ann	22 High Street, Weston	R
Sitwell, Susanna Carolyn	The Gardener's Cottage, Weston	R
Storer, Andrew William	The Organ Loft, 2 The Crescent	NR
	Whittlebry, Towcester	
Streten, Victoria Jane	Lois Weedon Farm, Lois Weedon	R
Streten Michael William	Lois Weedon Farm, Lois Weedon	R
Tyler, Teresa,	Primrose Hill House, Lois Weedon	R
Webb, Sarah Tracey	The Farm, Weston	R
Williams, Sarah	Green Farm Barn, Lois Weedon	

Number on the Roll 38 R = Resident NR = Non Resident

3. Churchwardens Report for APCM 2018 Meeting

Quinquennial

Work is very nearly complete. The delay was caused by the need to fashion a complex window frame for the east window. With the onset of winter it was not possible to put the new frame in place because of the risk of frost damage. S & C Builders will be returning to site on Monday 19th March, they have yet to present an invoice. The Friends of the Church have kindly agreed to grant us £5,000 towards the cost of repair. I and the Treasurer will be seeking assistance from other grant making organisations. We still have the spectre of the crack hanging over us.

Alarm System

Work will begin on installing the alarm system on the 21st March. I have received interim permission from the Archdeacon and have submitted plans to the DAC which should be approved as a formality. The alarm system is essential to protect us from a substantial bill should we be the victim of lead theft. Ecclesiastical insurers will cover the whole cost of repair if we install an approved system which is what we are doing. The cost is £4,000 with an annual maintenance fee.

Churchyard mowing

The Church main Graveyard has been mowed twice per month since April at a cost of £150 per month. To date this cost is covered by The May Day donation with their agreement. Future cost will be normally borne by the operating Account. There is however an opportunity to apply to May Day for continued funding. The extension Graveyard cost is paid for by the Parish Council.

Church Notices

The Church Noticeboards at the entrance gates are showing signs of disrepair. I have asked David Clarke if he could apply his skills to replacing them with new ones which can be opened so that notices are protected. All information about services, including Pews News are posted on the Village Website

www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk or for Benefice information there is a link provided to www.astwellparishes.org.uk on the site.

Thanks

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped to keep the Church going in sometimes difficult circumstances. All the readers, sidesmen, intercessors, flower arrangers, coffee makers, cleaners and keyholders. Also I would like thank everyone for their kindness, support and forbearance. The new structure is unfolding and I am optimistic that we can meet our financial targets and make progress on improvements to the Church Fabric now we have a BRICC committee. I would like to thank Barry, Diane and Mike for giving us Prayers and Praise and Matins. Their services are much appreciated by us all. Thank you Wiggy for her constant support and joyful presence. And finally I would like to thank Carole, not only for her ministry and inspirational preaching but also her leadership guidance and energy in preparing us for the most significant change we have encountered for many years in this group of churches. She has succeeded in bringing us all together which I personally think is the only way forward.

Frank Hunter
Churchwarden

4. Village Trust **For the period March – December 2017.**

The Village Trust was, like other Trusts in the benefice, set up about 150 years ago to relieve poverty amongst the elderly, infirm and needy. As the demographics of the Parish have changed over the years, the relief of poverty as such is no longer a pressing issue. The trust now gives, at Christmas, a very few hampers and other items to the elderly and pot plants to anyone who has moved into the Parish in the last year and to those who have been bereaved or have suffered some major trauma. The Trustees have also made a donation towards the increasing cost of providing a Christmas lunch for all the senior citizens of the Parish. In addition, the Trust has limited resources available on a one-off basis to anyone who finds themselves in particular need.

Trustees are:

Revd. Carole, Chair. Frank Hunter, Churchwarden. Peggie Clarke, currently president of the WI.

- Income, currently £750pa is derived from the rent of a field on the outskirts of Weston
- Expenditure in 2017 was £542
- Current Bank Balance is £892

David Clarke
Secretary/ Administrator

5. St Loys Primary Academy Report 2018

The school was delighted to be judged as Outstanding as a Church School in an Inspection in October 2017 (SIAMS). The inspector said:

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Loys Church of England school are outstanding

- Inspirational religious education (RE) teaching is given a high priority and encourages learners to apply their learning to their own reflections of meaning and purpose.
- There is a deep and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and the parish placing both at the heart of the community.
- The strong leadership ensures school's Christian character has a high profile and shapes the outstanding behaviour, achievement and relationships within the school community.

We are always very grateful to Reverend Carole for all the fantastic work she does with us at the school.

We are currently developing our monthly Community Café meetings and reviewing what we can do to help the church raise funds.

Please do ensure all families do know of our existence so that we can continue to thrive in this beautiful village.

6. Bell Ringers

The bell ringers meet twice a week – Monday is bell handling for learners and Wednesdays is change ringing for all. We can have up to 7 on a Monday evening and on a Wednesday our numbers can fluctuate between 5 – 12. The majority of the time we have enough people to ring all 6 bells for Sunday services.

This year sees the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, many bell ringers joined the war effort, and many lost their lives. To commemorate the 1400 bell ringers who died in the First World War, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, together with the Big Ideas Company, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, have launched a new campaign to recruit 1400 new ringers. This is a call out to all of us and an opportunity for everyone, a chance to make this wonderful ancient tradition open to all. We hope that a few people will take up this challenge and learn to ring. We already have one potential recruit who is having her first introductory lessons. If any of you are interest please get in touch with us.

We have both been on courses run by the Association of Ringing Teachers and Dave is now qualified to teach people bell handling and the basics of method ringing. We work through a programme designed by ART and 4 of our learners have already received their Level 1 bell handling certificates.

We are indebted to the help given by Ian Chapple (the Branch Ringing Master) who comes and helps us every week.

During the year we have had two visiting teams to ring the bells, the South Midlands Ladies Guild visited in July and the Daventry Branch rang a quarter peal in February.

Trevor King and Dave Kirkham spent a Saturday cleaning out the debris which had accumulated over the years in the bell chamber. An inspection of the bells was carried out by Laurence Gregory and Dave Kirkham to check their overall condition, a few minor defects were noted but we can address these ourselves. It is suggested that woodwork treatment be carried out on the frame every 5 years. (A copy of the report is attached). We are grateful to Laurence Gregory who cleaned down the walls in the ringing chamber and touched up the paintwork as required. Routine maintenance is carried out on the bells on a regular basis.

The church clock chimes have been adjusted so that they all sound, the bearings of the clock are oiled when necessary and as the clock gains a few minutes each week we adjust the time when required.

Thank you to the Rector and Church Wardens for letting us have the enjoyment of ringing the bells and teaching new recruits and also to the parishioners who are very supportive.

David & Joy Kirkham
Joint Tower Captains