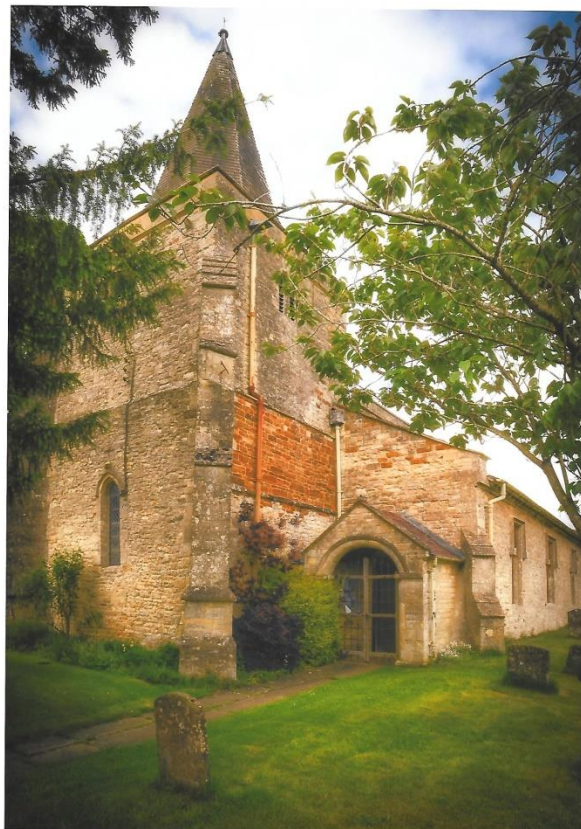


**The 2018 Annual Report
Of the Parochial Church Council
For the Parish of**

St. James the Great, Syresham



**The Parochial Church Council of
St. James the Great, Syresham**

Content

1. Vestry Meeting

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters Arising
- Election of Church Warden(s) and/or Representative(s)

Meeting Closed

APCM Meeting Welcome

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting Yr. 2016-2017: Dated: 28 April 2017

2. Electoral Roll

3. Church Warden's Report

4. PCC Report, Syresham 2017 – 2018 (BRICC Report)

5. The Hammond Fund Annual Report

6. The Madge Payne Report

7. Syresham St James 200 Club

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- a. Beacon Centre
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- d. Secret Keepers
- e. Messy Church

10. In and around the Church

- i. Rotas
- ii. Sidespeople
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11. Bell Ringers

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Churches of St James the Great Syresham and St John the Evangelist Whitfield held in St James 7.30pm Friday 28 April 2017

Present: *Rev Carole Peters-King, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, David Wright, Brenda Faragher, Martin Brown, Clare Bonner, Alice Palmer, Kathleen Brunning, Sallie Connery.*

Apologies received from *Wiggy Smith, Sue Palmer, Sheila Brown, Margaret Miller, Andrew & Antoinette Hornby, Lisa & Nick Dimpleby, Sylvia McLean, Jane Rymell, Sue Timmis and Rev. John Roberts.*

Prayer. The meeting started with a Prayer.

Legal requirements. Carole said Reports and Minutes should be prepared electronically. Also Electoral Roll. A quorum is two thirds of ordinary members, ie not *ex officio* members.

Vestry Meeting. Minutes of the 2016 Vestry Meeting were read out. These were deemed to be a true record. Malcolm proposed acceptance; Alice seconded. All agreed.

Appointment of Churchwardens. 1. David Wright. Proposed by Malcolm, seconded by Kathleen. All agreed. 2. Malcolm Orr-Ewing. Proposed by Kathleen, seconded by David Wright. All agreed.

Minutes of the 2016 (Syresham) APCM. Martin proposed acceptance of the minutes of the APCM as a true record. Seconded by Claire. All agreed

Presentation of 2017 Reports.

Rector's Report.

Church Electoral Roll for Syresham. All names read aloud. Kathleen proposed acceptance. Brenda seconded. All agreed.

Church Electoral Roll for Whitfield. Names unavailable as not brought to meeting.

Financial Statement.

The Syresham accounts had been audited by Bernard Wilkins and were deemed to be correct. The accounts were scrutinized very carefully and Brenda answered questions to everyone's satisfaction. Brenda proposed the adoption of the accounts. Alice seconded and all agreed.

Whitfield accounts. These have been audited. A special meeting will be held for the accounts to be examined and approved, once they have been on display at Whitfield St John the Evangelist for a full month.

Secretary's Report. This gave details of PCC meetings. Debbie Sims has resigned as Secretary due to '*pressure of work*'. In her absence, she was thanked for her hard work.

Churchwardens Report.

Syresham. The churchwardens were thanked for their work throughout the year; Malcolm in particular for all his efforts to keep the church dry following the theft of lead roofing.

Whitfield. Claire and Sue were thanked for all their hard work to ensure that services could continue to be held in St John the Evangelist church.

Deanery Synod. Carole stressed the importance of attendance at Deanery Synod meetings and thanked Claire and Wiggy.

Friends. Carole thanked the friends of St James for their work and Sara and Ian Chapple for their work at Whitfield.

Hope Centre Food Collections. Lots of food available. Further volunteers welcome.

Choir Report. David and through David the choir were thanked for their valuable contributions to church services.

Election of Officers

Minute Secretary. Kathleen Brunning. Proposed by Malcolm; seconded by Brenda. All agreed.

Electoral Roll Officer. Kathleen. Proposed by Alice' seconded by Martin. All agreed.

Safeguarding Officer. David, proposed by Brenda; seconded by Alice. All agreed.

Deanery Synod. Claire and Wiggy (not yet due for re-election.)

Treasurer. Brenda, proposed by Martin, seconded by Claire. All agreed.

Hammond Trust. Sallie

Payne Trust. Martin

Whitfield Representatives. Sue Timmis and Claire Bonner. Election not required.

Recommended auditor: Bernard Wilkins, proposed by Brenda.

Eucharistic Assistants. For Syresham Sue Palmer and Kathleen Brunning. For Whitfield Claire Bonner, Sue Timmis and Shaun Sullivan.

A vote of thanks to Carole was proposed by Malcolm, agreed by all.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 8.45pm

Kathleen Brunning. April 2017

2. Church Electoral

Roll of the Parish of St James the Great, Syresham

Mrs A Allee

Mrs H Bartlett-Syree

Mrs W Bartlett-Syree

Mr J Braybrook

Mrs M Braybrook

Mrs C Brisby

Mr J Brisby QC

Mr V Brooks

Mrs J Brooks

Mr M Brown

Mrs S Brown

Mrs K Brunning

Mrs G Clube

Mrs S Connery

Mrs L Dimbleby

Mr N Dimbleby

Mrs B Faragher

Mr E Faragher

Mrs D Gurner

Mrs E Harris

Mrs J Haycock

Mrs I Holgate

Mr A Hornby

Mrs A Hornby

Mr E Hornby

Miss E Hornby

Mrs B Hughes

Mrs M Hunt

Mrs C Jackman

Mr C Lloyd

Mrs S Mclean

Mrs C Orr-Ewing

Hon M Orr-Ewing

Miss A Palmer

Mrs S Palmer

Dr A Rathborne

Mrs H Rathborne

Canon the Rev J Roberts

Mr A Scott

Mrs C Scott

Miss J Shaw

Mrs D Sims

Mrs A Widdowson

Mr D Wright

Mr M Yallop

Total 45

Mr A Clube died in 2017

Mr J Jackman moved away

Mr & Mrs Brooks joined
(forms with MOE).

3. Churchwardens Report 2018

Fabric

At the time of writing, the Quinquennial Repairs called for in our 2014 report have not been completed and scaffolding is still on the church tower. Simon Elbrow, the appointed contractor, has had family problems and it has been an especially hard winter. We need the tower scaffolding to be down by end April latest. Again at the time of writing the church roof lead has very nearly been totally replaced by terne-coated stainless steel. I have been fortunate to have received grants and insurance money which should exceed what we require for the roof repair. £14600 has already been received; a further £2500 has been promised upon completion and £1000 is there from the Alan Evans Memorial Trust upon completion if we need it. We have also received £7500 from Ecclesiastical Insurance. Quotation was £17523 (+VAT). We have paid an interim 40%. There will be a credit for lead saved and a credit for shoddy tarpaulin securing Jan 2018 causing water ingress.

Faculties: No faculties requested yet this year (up to March 2018).

Additions or removals from church. None.

Services & Occasional Offices

- a) Two baptisms and three funerals were held in 2017. Also one wedding.
- b) Pattern of Services. We started family services in November 2016. Initial attendances were good, 15-20, but sometimes very few come. In January 2018 we spontaneously turned one family service into a communion one for the 10 (non-family) members present. We must monitor these family services in the future to see if there is enough support for them. Village Praise & Prayer has usually been well supported with 12-20 attendees. Our thanks to Alice Palmer for masterminding these services. We hope to restart Choral Evensong, led by David Wright, in conjunction with Whitfield, from Summer 2018.
- c) average attendance at Communion services 2017: 11 adults, 0 under 16; Messy Church 4 adults and five children; praise and prayer 20 adults.
- d) attendance at major festivals: Christmas 239, Easter 44, Harvest 23. (Christmas +40 on 2016; the others down by 10%).

Work undertaken by Churchwardens

- a) Visited sick with the incumbent at Christmas 2017. Distributed money and plants.
- b) Reappointed R&R Robinsons of Silverstone to do church mowing. FOSJ pays.
- c) Liaised with War Graves Commission to have a notice put up on the cemetery railings.

Ministry.

Carole's fourth Lent course has not included alternate weekly evenings at St James, as last year. And it is called '*Beyond Lent*' (a continuation of bible study groups of the same name throughout the year). Lent lunches have been well attended, with 14 at the Syresham one. Several films, with Lent themes have been shown at Helmdon church.

Fundraising

In 2017 we raised some £3000 via Church Fete £1000, St Nicholas Fair £880, Bridge Evening £620, Quiz £240. For 2018 We have the *Annual Summer Fete* at the Priory Sat June 2nd. Sallie

Connery is putting on a *School Fashion Show* in the church Wednesday 13 June. *Fiori Musicali* are visiting us on Friday 7 December for a Christmas Concert in church and a *Medieval Banquet* is planned for February 2019.

Thanks

Our thanks to Carole for her tireless work in the benefice. Also to Wiggy and all those who help with the church in Syresham. Also to church organist and choirmaster David Wright. David is retiring from his churchwarden's duties at the April 2018 APCM and, at the time of writing, no replacement has been found for Syresham. We would like to thank him for all his support as a churchwarden and for his work with the choir and as our organist, sometimes even with one hand! Happily he will be continuing these activities in 2018. Debbie Sims, our secretary until last year, has also not been replaced and the undersigned is temporarily fulfilling this role, with Kathleen Brunning as Minute Secretary. We would like to thank Debbie for her hard work 2014-2017 and also for handing over the records in such good order!

Malcolm Orr-Ewing

David Wright

4. PCC/BRICCS Report Syresham 2017-18

We lost our secretary, Debbie Sims, last April and the undersigned has been doing his best in the interim as 'Acting Secretary'. Kathleen Brunning has helped as Minute Secretary but has problems digitalizing her reports. This will be increasingly difficult in 2018-19 as we are having difficulty recruiting another Representative or Churchwarden after the resignation of David Wright as from the APCM this year.

But as the PCC is now called the BRICCS, we have been able to widen our circle of attendees at our Briccs meetings to include Sue Palmer and Judith Shaw from the Friends of St James. Hopefully this has led to the Friends agreement to help the church with our Insurance bill (currently £1800 per annum). We have also agreed to do joint fundraising efforts for St James Church.

Current members of the BRICCS as at APCM are:

- Malcolm Orr-Ewing (Chair)
- Brenda Faragher (Treasurer)
- Martin Brown (Madge & Maud Payne Fund Manager)
- Kathleen Brunning (Minute Secretary)
- Sue Crossley
- Sallie Connery
- Sue Palmer (FOSJ)
- Judith Shaw (FOSJ)
- David Wright

Malcolm Orr-Ewing

Acting Secretary

5. The Hammond Fund – Annual Report 2017/18

The group met in November to discuss Christmas giving. 13 gifts of £35 each were distributed, the group deciding not to add further names as they would like to continue to use any undistributed money for particular circumstances, ie families in crisis, book vouchers for students, RE in schools, bibles etc.

Malcolm to order pot plants as this was a great success last year. All agreed on cyclamen. 36 were ordered to give to people who have had a bad year. Agreed death of a partner would get a pot plant the second year. Death of a parent only one year.

Syresham School. A donation of £600 will be given to Syresham St James Primary School towards their new reflective garden.

Terms of Reference

With the Benefice changes, the following alterations apply:

1.1 PCC to BRICC

1.3 PCC to BRICC

1.5 PCC to BRICC

1.6 PCC to BRICC

3.3 to read 'Minutes of Trustees' meeting will be made available to members of the BRICC.

4.4 to read 'to submit a statement of accounts together with an annual report to the Benefice Parochial Church Council'.

BRICC = Syresham St James Building, Repair, Insurance & Contents Committee.

Income

April £471.08

October £472.90

Balance

£1892.38 in account

Expenses

£455 cash for cards

£54 plants

£6 cards

Total £515 for Christmas 2017

Balance

£1377.38

6. Madge Payne Report

Minutes Payne Will Trustees Meeting Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 2:30pm at 12 High Street Syresham.

Attendees: Attendance: Martin Brown (Treasurer), Rev Carole Peters King, Kathleen Brunning, Sallie Connery (Secretary).

The annual review of the two trusts has been carried out by Fortitude Financial Planning and a meeting was held with Chris Bowmer (IFA) and Martin Brown on 15th March 2018. MB proposed, CP-K seconded and it was unanimously agreed that an additional Trustee should be appointed who will be the Chairman of the Syresham BRCC.

The Marjorie Payne Trust Fund

As a result of the good performance in our investment portfolio, the Trust's assets have grown to £659,200 in the last 12 months. The income for the period is £16,800.

Currently there is £27,337 in the current account which should now be allocated to the proposed exceptional expenditure. The Trustees have agreed to the following expenditure in addition to the Quinquennial. However it is proposed that the detail is discussed at the next BRCC(s):

- A) Upgrade or supplement the heating system
- B) Provide a screen;
- C) Upgrade the loop and provide an integrated sound system;
- D) Provide additional Kitchen equipment and
- E) meet the payments for the annual testing of i) Electrics; ii) Fire equipment; iii) Heating and iv) Roof alarm as well as when necessary the organ.

The Maud Payne Trust Fund

During this period, the fund has grown to £26,490 and the income is £660. The Trustees have unanimously agreed to a 50% contribution to the annual insurance premium (2017 £1800). This is the intension of the Trust and now the finances are in a good position this should be made annually with a payment to the BRCC account and liaison with the BRCC Treasurer.

M N L Brown

Treasurer

7. Syresham St James Church 200 Club 2017-18

Over the past year the monthly draw continues to produce winners from a wide spectrum, both from within and without the village. This year we had 156 paid members, contributions totaling £3120. This has allowed us to award first prizes of £80, second prizes of £35 and third prizes of £15. We have been able to give the PCC £1500 towards the running costs of the church. Expenditure was £47 (£30 photocopying and £17 for a gift.)

The draw continues to take place at the village hall coffee mornings on the last Thursday of each month which proves to be popular, hopefully encouraging more people to join when renewals are due.

My thanks to Ruth at the Post Office for the help in persuading people to join/rejoin and for being a 'drop-off' point for subs; also to everyone who helps at the draws and to Alice Palmer for all her help and for keeping the accounts. Alice is to become a signature on the account.

Once again a big posthumous thank you to the late Alan Clube and the late Keith McLean for setting up the 200 Club in 2010.

Sallie Connery

8. Friends of St James

The Friends of St James had a very successful 2017 both socially and financially. We have 29 members.

John Braybrook organised another excellent Quiz for the Friends in March and in April we had a delightful concert by Vanessa & Ann Murby with Lincoln Noel entitled "By George". We also had a return visit of James Hornsby with a brilliant rendering of Oliver Twist.

At our Christmas social we enjoyed mulled wine and delicious nibbles then in February more good food at our Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday.

We are planning another Safari Supper on the 19th May 2018.

Our only regular commitment is paying for the mowing of the Churchyard – that is £72.91 per month. In 2017 we also contributed some felt pens and porcelain hearts to the Secret Keepers group and hand held candles for the church.

In 2018 we hope to contribute towards church insurance and a new urn for entertaining in church.

Sue Palmer

9. Looking Out

Beacon Centre The Beacon Centre provides lunch to homeless people in Banbury on three days a week. We take Baked Beans, Spaghetti and sometimes cheese to the centre along with donations from the school harvest. They are always very grateful for our modest donations.

Lunch Club the club welcomes some 11 – 13 people to enjoy company and a meal on the first Sunday of most months to Vine Cottage. We are grateful for the help of Sue Palmer aided by Kathleen Brunning, Janet Cox, Alice Palmer and Ann Widdowson.

Mums & Tots Mums and Tots was originally founded by Church and Chapel but is now run by a group of mums with the help from a founder member.

We meet every Wednesday during term times between 10 and 12 in the Village Hall. There are between 15 and 25 babies and children with their mums, dads, grannies, and/or child-minders. There are lots of toys and activities and often a simple craft. More help setting up would always be appreciated.

Secret Keepers Secret Keepers is a free group for 8 – 11 year olds. We meet in the chapel school room. Leaders are Alice Palmer and Cathy Corns (Chapel) with support from other chapel members or Kathleen when needed.

We have just joined our quiet and noisy groups together so now we have around 10 children who meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays for craft, bible stories, games and prayers.

Thanks to Oliver Scott and Mia Power who joined us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh work.

Messy Church We have lost some older members from this session but have welcomed some new younger members. Numbers range between 1 and 12.

10. In and around the Church

Rotas We currently have 16 people on our lists of rotas helping with cleaning, coffee making, flowers, brass, reading, leading intercessions and mowing. Many thanks to all who give their time so generously to help our services and church run smoothly.

Sidespeople: Welcoming folk to church is a very important part of the service and we are grateful to the team of people helping namely: John Braybrook, Brenda Faragher, Andrew Hornby, Margaret Mill, Malcolm Orr-Ewing, Kathleen Brunning and Sue Palmer.

Friends of the Churchyard A group of us meet on the second Saturday of the month. We work alternately in the Churchyard and Cemetery removing quantities of ivy from gravestones, cutting back brambles, Elder and Holly suckers and maintaining flower beds and shrubs. There are sometimes seven friends – more would be welcome.

Sue & Alice Palmer

11. Bellringers

We do not keep records of weddings, but I am sure Carole will have that information.

The cash (was £150, or £175 per wedding) is distributed to the ringers at £25 each and the balance is given to the treasurer. I trust he will have recorded that. We think there was one visiting band which will have left £10, again passed to the treasurer by the ringers.

The home band is complete if they are all available. They are Sheila Brown, Ian Duffield, Penny Potter, Emily Potter and Vicky Powell. Sara and I often fill in when the band is incomplete.

We have tried to hold a weekly practice at 5.30 on a Thursday, but this has only worked when people are available. We are also trying to ensure the third Sunday service is rung each month. There has been no Tower meeting for many years and there is no formal structure, as in most towers. It would be sensible if such a meeting were held and volunteers would come forward to look after duties like distributing cash and contacting ringers to ensure services and practices worked.

We also note that, despite receiving a substantial grant from the Diocesan bell fund when the bells were re-hung, the PCC does not pay any donation to the PDG bell fund affiliation scheme.

Sara & Ian Chapple