

PCC Report for APM 26th April 2023

When preparing this report, I looked at the Aims, Purposes, Objectives and Activities to which every PCC is committed, and how we try to fulfil our role as the church community within the wider area of a village community. The PCC has the responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance of the building and churchyard. In order to do this, we aim to work with the other organisations in the parish enabling anybody to worship in the church, thereby nurturing their faith, and living it out as part of the parish community. We try to keep parishioners informed of our activities, and by pastoral work, and involvement in village events we attempt to provide a positive effective and lively profile of the work of the church.

The pandemic is hopefully now behind us, and we are thankful that we have emerged relatively unscathed. The reduced resources now available have meant that we have had to restrict the number of services to one Sunday and one Thursday per month, but to counteract this there are online services every Sunday and Wednesday, and people are encouraged to travel to churches other than their own whenever possible. In addition, the church is open every day for anyone to go and spend a quiet time there.

We cannot do anything without the help of the people of the parish, past and present. Last year we had a large section of the roof repaired, an area behind the font was opened up for the benefit of Baptism parties in particular, and we are currently having work done on the windows. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of a bequest 47 years ago from Kathy Carlin - and we are so grateful to all those who currently donate generously to the church to help with the day -to -day expenses. It is right to acknowledge publicly the generosity of the Parish Council, who have agreed to give up to £1000 towards the upkeep of the churchyard and carpark. We are truly grateful. We fully appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who keep the churchyard looking well-cared for, for those who lock and unlock the church to enable visitors to enjoy the calm atmosphere, and the cheerful group of cleaners who work their magic every month. We are always willing to join with other organisations for village events, and we encourage the use of the church whenever appropriate – a plug here for the live streaming of the Coronation on 6th May, to be organised by the Parish Council – and we enjoy being available if events on the Glebe Field need a large space to shelter in during freezing or horrible weather. The church can also be used for concerts and plays and we are open to requests for other appropriate activities. We were delighted to host a service to commemorate the centenary of the WI last year. Every last Friday of the month a coffee morning is held in the Village Hall, which is jointly organised by the VHMC, the WI, and the Church. I mentioned pastoral care – this is carried out quietly, effectively and without any publicity. Many of the participants at the enjoyable Thursday lunch clubs at the Manor Farm Tea Shoppe are transported by volunteers from the village.

The links with Bleasby School continue now that the church is open again, and end of term services and other school activities take place on a regular basis. Revd Phil has been very active in promoting this important connection, and we will continue to nurture it after he leaves.

One aspect of the PCC's responsibility that is possibly not well known is the question of Safeguarding. Officers of the church receive far-reaching and important training in this area, and all churches have a Safeguarding Action Plan which is constantly updated, and which is available in the church for anyone who may wish to see it.

I mentioned the departure of the Revd Phil White – as you will know, he is retiring at the end of next month after seven years as Vicar to the seven churches in the Benefice of West Trent. This is not the place for a full appreciation of his time with us – suffice to say that that he is leaving a stronger, more united Benefice, and that he has probably touched the lives of many more people in each parish than anyone is aware of. We will miss him.

If anyone wants to hear about the retirement party being planned for 20th May, please see me afterwards.

If you have any questions, I will try to answer them. A full copy of our annual report is available – should be on website – if not – just ask me to send you one. (8 pages!)

Diana Temperley