

Kings Norton Team Ministry

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2016 APCM: Reports

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APCM Warden's Report 2016 & The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Nicolas Parish Church

The Quinquennial inspection was completed In March 2016. We still await the Report. However, major issues have been discovered with the Baptistry roof. There is an infestation of dry rot, wet rot and woodworm. An initial figure of £50k was quoted by the architect but we consider this to be very conservative. Major fundraising will be required once the full extent of the problem is known.

Churchyard Care

We have a small team of 3 who work well together under the direction of Anne Hughes. They are assisted by the Community Payback Team on Thursday mornings. They are highly industrious, but we need an increase in the numbers of our team as there is so much to do. We are very grateful for all the hard work that the current team does, many hours are spent in keeping our Churchyard beautiful.

Organ

The organ is currently undergoing repair work.

Windows

Some repair work was done on the stonework late last year. We are not aware of any problems at present.

Lighting

The lighting is adequate. We have no funds at present for improvement.

Sound System

A new system has been installed and paid for by donation. This is proving a good investment and we thank the donors for their generosity.

Path Lights

These are in need of attention and will be attended to when funds allow.

Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms

During 2015 there were 43 Weddings, 51 Funerals and 93 Baptisms (Children and Adults).

Bell Ringing

The 10 bells are shortly to be restored. The Bell ringers are currently led by Claire Calver. The team is shrinking due to age and health. There are no ringers from our congregations.

We desperately need to encourage new members to the team but we are thankful for the team's dedication and service.

Sides People

We give our thanks to the Sides People who are the first point of contact for persons entering the church and who make St Nicolas such a welcoming place of worship. However, we have reached a crisis point in the 10.30a.m. Service where we now have insufficient sides people and no assistant wardens. This is a seriously important issue which must be addressed swiftly by the 10.30 a.m. congregation and P.C.C. Anne Hughes and Phil Burton would like to thank Jan Anson, Michael Kennedy, Nathan Crooks, Christian Hughes and Sylvia Fox for their dedication and commitment in wardening the 9.00 am and 6.00 pm services at St Nicolas. With Jim Clarke at Hawkesley and Clare Dean at Immanuel and the many devoted sidespeople, they ensure that worshippers receive a warm welcome and services proceed well.

Interregnum

During the Interregnum the Wardens have been untiringly supported by our clergy Jayne, Robin & Jane.

Our Readers David Ash, Fay Fearon, Mandy Butler and Ruth Howman have given us great encouragement, invaluable help and advice.

We welcomed Caz Hague, our Methodist Minister, in September 2015 and we thank her for her support.

We could not have functioned without the advice and help of our Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary, Judy Ash, our Finance Officer Catherine Dehghani, our Church Facilities Manager and Music Director, Sylvia Fox and our Children's Worker, Pauline Weaver. They have all worked tirelessly during the Interregnum to ensure that services and pastoral work have continued without interruption.

Our Area Dean, Melusi Sibanda, has also given us much appreciated advice and help.

The Wardens sincerely thank the many people who ensure that St Nicolas is such a welcoming environment. These include the people who clean our church and polish brasses and those who make Open Church and Candlelit Church possible.

We also thank Alison Blumer and her team for the displays of flowers and flower arrangements that help to make St Nicolas Church such a beautiful place of worship.

We were sent a booklet entitled "Growing Through a Vacancy" at the beginning of the Interregnum. One piece of advice was "Don't allow your main energy to be diverted on to practical but secondary issues such as building repairs...."

Electoral Roll Report 2016

The Parish Electoral Roll currently stands at **283**. St Nicolas 211, Hawkesley 23 & Immanuel **50**

Treasurer's Report

This year's accounts show an overall profit compared to last year.

Although planned giving has reduced we were able to claim more gift aid on those donations (both GA on direct donations but also that on collections in church). We

also received a legacy in the year. Fees collected from funerals and weddings have also increased (an increase in the numbers as well as an increase in fees). Income from buildings has reduced as well as the income from café and catering services, now that SNP accounts are completed separately under the CIC.

Resources expended have remained fairly consistent with that of 2014. We have tried to stabilise the flows of cash particularly that of the utilities by paying a standard amount per month. Common fund expectation has reduced. Administration fees have reduced because of SNP accounts now being completed separately under the CIC. The office rent is now fully accounted for to the CIC. The salaries, training and support costs have increased as they contain a full year of SNP wages. Fee disbursements are larger in correspondence to the increase in funeral/wedding incomes.

This year we have concentrated on increasing our cash in the bank in order to minimize our risk and put the church on a better footing for the future. Having reduced our expenses and increased our income wherever possible this has had to be at the expense of our contribution to common fund. This together with some outstanding parochial fees explains the increase in creditors. Although the common fund is not a legal obligation (although an obligation we take very seriously) the Diocese still hold that we owe Common Fund from 2014. As of today 25 April 2016 we are currently up to date with this years Common Fund obligation and now only owe five months worth of parochial fees for last year.

I believe that the accounts have born the uncertainty of the retirement of Rob Morris well. Hopefully with the commencement of our new Rector it should ease some of the uncertainties. Cash flow still needs to be carefully managed but at least we now have a small cushion of comfort in our reserves – one I hope to increase this year. Once again we are indebted to Mike Edwards, our Accountant, for auditing our accounts this year. We hope that this meeting agrees to appoint him for a further year.

~ **Catherine Deghani**

Kings Norton Parochial Church Council

The PCC held six ordinary meetings and three special meetings in 2015/16. Continuing concerns have been Transforming Church, Saint Nicolas Place, finances, growth of ministry and mission and the care and renewal of churchyard and of our buildings. New business has been ensuring that we are able to go on building up our Children's and Families' work, the upcoming Quinquennial and of course the renewal of the Clergy Team.

Hawkesley Church

7 months in I am still getting to know Hawkesley congregation but it didn't take long to find out they are a very welcoming and friendly group. Despite being small in numbers they achieve a lot: coffee and chat, quiz nights, pancakes, Christmas and Christian Aid coffee mornings, all kinds of volunteering in the community, and of

course the fundraising. Which of us has not enjoyed a jar of Erica's marmalade? However numbers are dwindling and so we are exploring how we can use the gifts and interests of the congregation to bring new people in.

October this year will be a significant time, 40 years since the school and church were opened. Watch out for details of the celebrations!

~ Rev Caz Hague

Immanuel Church

Full reports, as given at the AGM, of all Immanuel's activities are available on request.

Jayne commented that it had been a privilege to serve Immanuel over the last five years. She thanked everyone for their patience, love, wisdom and support, adding that the church had remained steadfast despite difficulties. She gave thanks for the confirmation of Sam and Ellie, plus Amy's baptism and Xavier's thanksgiving. Afternoons of fun and fellowship were well received.

Election of Officers: Clare Dean was nominated and seconded as Warden for another term, while Nathan Crooks was nominated and seconded as Deputy Warden. Jayne thanked all who were continuing to serve as DCC members, plus Gail, who has been nominated and seconded as a new member. Beverley was nominated and seconded as Electoral Roll Officer. Deanery Synod Reps (Beverley, Christine, Clare and Fay) were elected last year for three years so nominations are not required this year.

2016 AGM CLERGY REPORT; The Revd Jayne is a hard act to follow! Immanuel has been through some major changes in the last year, and faced some challenges as a result. My position as clergy is temporary until a new Rector for the Parish is appointed, who will then appoint a Team Vicar to look after Immanuel. So I feel somewhat at a disadvantage, being temporary, part-time, living outside the parish, and only relatively recently ordained. I can only pray that our weakness is God's opportunity.

We have re-started our regular prayer meetings at David and Nicky Moorcroft's home, on every other Wednesday evening.

Our DCC has met every other month, and our thanks to Katherine Bozic, Nathan Crooks, Clare Dean, Fay Fearon, Chris Gadd, Sue Hartley, David Maynard, Nicky Moorcroft, Gail Rogers and Gillian Morrell, who acted as Secretary. We had some frank and valuable discussions, which have led us through this period of change and consolidation. Thank you to all of those who have contributed.

Clare Dean has decided to stand down as Warden and member of the DCC, so that she can pursue her calling in other directions. We are grateful for her service to Immanuel – she has a combination of diplomacy and clear foresight which means she has been invaluable in her role. Also Gillian Morrell has decided to stand down from her role as Secretary and member of the DCC. She has been an excellent Secretary, producing minutes of meetings which are accurate and timely. Also Gail Rogers is standing down as a member of the DCC.

I feel that last year was one of change and then consolidation. I hope that 2016 will be a year when we set out on some new ventures, reaching out to the community around us. So may God bless you all, and draw you ever closer to himself, through his Son Jesus Christ.

~ **Rev Robin Mortimore (edited)**

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

Morale is good, especially in the care of children, the quality of relationships and the spiritual life of the school, which all make our core work of learning and teaching the rich experience it must always be. It is a whole-school achievement, children, staff, families and governors together, raising standards and ensuring quality teaching and progression for all pupils, for now and the future. Our chief debt of thanks is however to Mr Higgins, Head from September 2014 and his leadership colleagues.

Children's Work

Children's work continues to grow within the parish. Tiny Tots and Bumps and Babies are flourishing with strong numbers and a loyal, regular attendance. GPS continues steadily and is always ready for new members. Sunday morning provision has been restructured and is working well with the offering of one Oasis, one Godly Play and two all age options each month. Sunday attendance continues to grow. Our main issue currently is the lack of volunteers, particularly new volunteers and especially for Tiny Tots. Links with the Sweet Project remain vital to our work with families in need with responses to the Christmas Challenge and other appeals for donations continuing to be well supported. The new Toy Library project is already being well supported. Funding applications have been made and once we know the outcome of these and the work on the baptistery plans can move forward to open this service. None of this would happen without the support of our congregations, clergy and most especially our volunteers.

~ **Pauline Weaver Childrens Work Development Worker**

Schools and Uniformed groups

We give grateful thanks as always to the leaders and volunteers involved in the many uniformed groups at St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Oddingley. It is good to see so many of them at the monthly Parade services and special services. Of the 9 non RC schools in our parish we have governor representation on 4 and regular contact in a variety of ways. There is scope for more, so if anyone can offer time as a school governor or to hear children read, then please do let the clergy know.

St Nicolas Choir

The age group of St Nicolas' choir remains very wide. We have had the joy of two weddings of choir members this summer. Despite additional commitment to family, work and other activities, everyone has attended faithfully throughout the year, including the children. We have acquired three more young singers. They joined as a group immediately after the R

emembrance Parade Service.

Musically, this year, we have continued to feel most at home with hymns sung in harmony, psalms sung to Anglican chant or metrical psalms and some plainsong. We have used chants from the Iona and Taizé communities and anthems written for the smaller choir, especially those by Tudor writers. This year has seen us explore a new collection of anthems provided in memory of Cynthia Fell, a life-long member of St Nicolas', who was deeply involved in both music and youth work. Rehearsals continue to take place on Friday evenings and are a time not only for singing but for exploring aspects of the Christian faith. We hope to explore instrumental music more fully over the next couple of years

~ **Sylvia Fox (edited) Director of Music: April 2016**

Pastoral Life and Service

Baptisms

In 2015 we had the privilege of baptising 94 children and adults. The Giving of a Blanket ceremony is now an integral part of Sunday worship at St Nicolas and much appreciated by families and is also enjoyed by the congregation. There is a real sense of the families being enveloped in both God's and the congregations' love. The annual Service of Light in January was well attended by those baptised during 2014 and also now seems an established part of parish life.

Thank you to all those who act as sidespeople at the services and to Marlene, Carol, Joan and Mary who continue to follow up on baptism families with phone calls and visits, giving books and prayers and to Pauline, who coordinates the visits and leads the Meaning of Baptism sessions.

Funerals

In 2015 clergy representing this parish conducted 151 funeral services and burial of ashes services. The ministry surrounding funerals is a very large part of the work that goes on in this parish and we are very blessed to have such dedicated and conscientious clergy who help to make the process of saying "goodbye" to a loved one a little easier to bear. As usual the annual Memorial service, held in November was well attended. A huge thank you to Margaret Sweet, who follows up funerals with a friendly phone call and to Clifford, who sends out Parish Magazines and collates the information, which enables invites to the Memorial service.

Weddings

In 2015 clergy representing this parish conducted 45 weddings and 5 wedding blessings. The paperwork surrounding these services grows, as new legislation is brought in, and so our team of Marriage clerks is much appreciated, because they do much of the tedious paperwork for the clergy conducting these services. Without their help you would see even less of your clergy than you do! So a huge thank you to Jan, Dinah, Chris, Teresa, Annette, Anne, Alison & Penny, along with Sylvia, who keeps track of all the paperwork.

Home Communion

We continue to minister to those who, for one reason or another, find getting to church on a Sunday almost impossible. It never ceases to amaze and humble me to see how much those receiving Holy Communion at home appreciate this ministry. It's not just the bread and wine, but the fact that they know they have not been forgotten and are

still a valued member of our church family and in all of our hearts and prayers. The numbers and list fluctuate during the year, but just to give you a flavour the visiting team took Holy Communion to 12 individuals in their homes, 2 residential homes and 4 sheltered housing complexes during December. Thank you to all who helped in this rewarding ministry: Fay Fearon, Diane Hutton, Mary Walker, Richard Carter, Greta Lacey, Anne Hughes, Carol Wozencroft, Marie Samson, Chris Gadd & Jim Clarke.

Rev Jayne Crooks

Communications

The magazine continues to go from strength to strength. David Ash bears the brunt of editing and production. Alison Blumer is tireless in caring for advertising, distribution, subscriptions and sales. We owe them all a great deal – including those who make lively contributions by each monthly deadline.

Thank you to all our distributors, advertisers and deliverers and of course to David who also makes our website, photography and range of postcards a continuing inspiration.

Churchyard

The Wardens would like to thank the elite band of three who work tirelessly to provide a beautifully kept graveyard for the use of all who enjoy it, with the help of the Community Payback team every Thursday morning.

We are awaiting a quinquennial survey of the churchyard and will present the resultant report to PCC.

Saint Nicolas Place

The Charitable Interest Company (CIC) is responsible for the day to day running of SNP and OGS. The directors of the company are John Creswell, (Chair), Philip Burton, Canon Rob Morris and Helen Kempster (Friends of Historic Kings Norton). CIC Accounts are maintained by Catherine Dehghani.

The buildings are owned by KNPCC.

Our thanks go to Friends of Historic Kings Norton whose dedication to SNP and enthusiasm to the shop and heritage events and in fund-raising and promotion are invaluable.

Andrew Driscoll is the Manager of SNP and is the first point of contact for all enquiries and information. He and the Crew work hard to ensure that SNP is open for room hire, visits and community use.

We have continued to raise standards of service. The CIC accounts show a much better financial position when compared with how things were when we first began. This coupled with the team efforts to get more room bookings has represented something of a turnaround of fortunes.

We have tenancies in two SNP offices (John Creswell & Xceedia). We are currently negotiating a third tenancy. The tenants of the ground floor of the Old Grammar School have become very supportive of St Nicolas and SNP.

Over the last summer SNP was subjected to numerous lead thefts. A fundraising appeal is in operation to replace the roof with a lead lookalike. Funds in the appeal account plus the £5k pledged by FKKN have reached circa £23k the vast majority of which having been made by cheques and cash donations rather than via the Just Giving site. The CIC has spoken to Councillor Peter Griffiths; he has said he will ask a member of the Conservation Department, to make contact and advise on how to approach planning permission for a non-lead substitute for the roof from both Birmingham City Council and English Heritage and other relevant organisations. The Wi-Fi routers have recently been replaced as technology has moved on and the coverage from our existing kit was not in keeping with room bookings expectations. The popular Molly's Tea Room has been re-named Green's Tea Room to avoid increasing confusion with Molly's Café.

The last year has shown great improvement but much remains to be done. We will continue to develop new community and function uses and to improve services. We also must continue to seek additional funding, both for the immediate replacement of the roof, but also for the financial future of SNP.

~ **Phil Burton**