

**The Parochial Church Council of
St John the Baptist,
Saxmundham,**

Charity Number 1171576

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

One faith



One Parish Church

One Fresh Expression



One Family

Foreword

This was a year when the term 'the St John's church family' felt just a little bit more significant. An awareness of differences between the ways of the parish church and the fresh expression gave way to a greater awareness of their similarities. Exploration of what it means to be a maturing fresh expression brought fresh thinking and opened the way to fresh practises and ministries. Exploration of what is meant by unity brought a fresh understanding of being a church family, with all that being a family entails.

As in all families, much of the work is done behind the scenes. No effort is made here to portray everything but you'll see something of just some of the interests and activities of this family in the pages that follow. Read them and you will find that all that we do is inspired by the one who called us to be brothers and sisters in his family.

Rev'd Andy Wolton
Rector

Safeguarding

There have been no significant safeguarding issues this past year. However, safeguarding remains an important & integral part of our church life in all its forms. There is an increasing emphasis on everybody who has a role in church, or in any of our church activities, completing the necessary training before starting the role. We still need to continue to be vigilant & caring in all that we do.

Julia Kinsey – Benefice Safeguarding Officer

The PCC recognise that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Rev'd Andy Wolton – Rector

Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Trustees

The PCC as elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of 2019 were Robert Aldred, Angela Bolam, Tom Boswell, Carol Cotton, Christopher Cotton, Jack Hague, Sue Potter, Christine Williams and Viv Wills-Crisp. In addition, Tony Gibbs, Stephen Hart and Fran Raven served on the PCC as Deanery Synod representatives and Adrian Kinsey and Shirley Thomas as churchwardens. Rev'd Andy Wolton served on the PCC as Rector and Rev'd Nic Stuchfield as Curate. All were trustees of the registered charity, number 1171576.

Matters of business discussed by the PCC included, amongst other things:

- transition of role of Youth and Community Worker to part time Community Worker
- managing maternity leave.
- planning for Holiday Club and a church weekend at Sizewell Hall.
- managing the accounts, this without a nominated treasurer (our thanks go to David May for acting as interim treasurer).
- continuing to refine the audio and video facilities in St John's.
- deciding on the future accountability of Connections to the PCC, with diocesan assistance from Lightwave
- effecting the redecoration and change of heating of the church hall.
- health and safety, safeguarding and setting up of a Growing in God team.
- planning for when the parish goes into vacancy on the Rector's retirement.
- eco church.
- licencing.

Electoral Roll

The parish electoral roll officer was Susan Potter. The roll as updated prior to the 2020 APCM was 107, reflecting a gain of 4 and a loss of 1 moved and 2 died.

Lay Elders

Marjorie Gibbs, Stephen Hart, Malcolm Shoote, Jill Stuchfield. Viv Wills-Crisp, Pauline Sparks, Shirley Thomas and Jan Wolton served throughout the year and Fran Raven and Jacqui Studd were commissioned on 20 March 2019. In addition to pastoral and liturgical duties they worked with the clergy (and churchwarden Adrian Kinsey) to seek to enhance worship as part of the Growing in God agenda and to expand the range of liturgies available, both when projected and those in print.

Connections Church



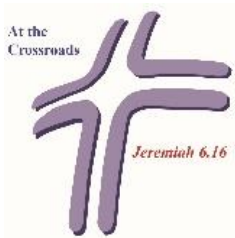
2019 saw Tom and Lou Boswell on a sabbatical for the first part of the year and with the monthly 1st Sunday Family Service being held in St John's. These proved popular but were returned to the school in the summer when the Connections services schedule changed from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays to 1st, 2nd and 4th. The team worked hard throughout the year, finding opportunities to serve and to evangelise and attracting those who seek a looser form of worship on Sundays. Work was also undertaken to broaden our understanding of Fresh Expressions of church and the Venerable Sally Gaze, Archdeacon for Rural Ministry led meetings involving the wider congregations, the PCC and the Connections team. These led to the PCC continuing to review the governance of Connections as a maturing Fresh Expression, working in conjunction with the Archdeacon and the Lightwave community of Fresh Expressions.

Additionally, it was recognised that those who speak at



Connections should receive some formal training and steps were taken toward them eventually being authorised by the bishop.

At the Crossroads



The Church Shop continues to be a valuable resource for the church and for the community. Many of the customers are regulars, often seen day after day; we strive to make it a welcoming place where friends and 'not yet friends' can meet with each other in a safe environment. The shop depends entirely on the willingness of its many volunteers to give their time and energy on a regular basis, they too enjoy the friendliness of the place and benefit from the companionship of their fellow workers. New volunteers are always needed and if you are interested, please do make contact.

As well as providing refreshments with food & drink, the shop stocks a great selection of greetings cards – most with a Bible text - Bibles, gifts, books for children & adults. In the past year the shop has come into its own providing books to order for study courses, as well as for private devotions and individual development. With so many Christian bookshops closing down, it is increasingly important that Christians use their local shop in preference to buying online. Most books can be supplied within a few days, usually at very competitive prices.

The shop is regularly used by several church groups, including the Bereavement Café, the Scrabble Club, Homegroups, Messy Church Planning, and The Hub, as well as being used for occasional meetings held within the Benefice and Diocese. Other church groups are very welcome to use it.

Doug Fletcher - volunteer manager

Wholeness and Healing Ministry

The Church has offered a pastoral ministry of wholeness and healing for three years now during Sunday morning services at St John's. Two members of the Wholeness and Healing Team listen to an individual's personal needs and then pray with and for them. They also pray for those who feel unable to put their needs into words. Subject to national church guidelines, prayer requests are treated with complete confidentiality. An evening service every quarter, focuses on this ministry. In these services we also offer anointing with oil and laying on of hands for healing.

Looking forward, please do use the Team to help you bring your personal needs for wholeness and healing before God, whether they be for things physical, emotional or spiritual.

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole.

Jill Stuchfield – Team coordinator

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and Foodbank

The loss of Rural Debt Centre manager Kirsty Christmas to maternity leave could have presented major challenges had it not been for Chris Cotton volunteering and taking on the (unpaid) role of interim manager, with assistance from Doug Fletcher. Both underwent training and the Centre continued to function well even while CAP Central faced unprecedented demand and went through a temporary closure to new clients in order to restructure. Thanks go also to Rev'd Nic Stuchfield for his continued oversight and promotion of this important missional activity.



Our work with the East Suffolk Foodbank saw an effort to apply the Trussell Trust model of using drop-in centres. With the local Churches Together it was agreed that a drop-in be created in the Saxmundham United Reform Church hall. Volunteers were recruited and trained and opened the drop-in one morning a week. Although overall demand remained high, it was largely met by the delivery system we'd created to meet the needs of a rural area and the drop-in was eventually closed. The delivery system continued to operate, but would welcome more volunteers. If you are able to help please do email saxfoodbank@gmail.com.

Ride and Stride

On Saturday 14th September the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride or walk took place and 700 Suffolk churches and chapels were open to receive visiting cyclists and walkers. 35 cyclists visited our church and our efforts raised £517.00 - Sponsorship money is shared equally between your church and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Our thanks to all who recorded and sponsored and participated. And the date for 2020 is..... Saturday 12th September!



Fran Raven – keen cyclist

Choir

We started work on the music for Christmas in January 2019, the idea being that the regular members, who are mostly sopranos and tenors, would feel confident in their parts by the time we were joined by additional altos and basses nearer Christmas. By the autumn we had about twenty singers and we were indeed able to give a good rendition of *O Holy Night*. Fortunately I didn't tire of singing it all the year! We also sang some music from the wider church, a Christmas song from Cameroun, *He came down*. We enjoyed having more singers to join us and would like more people to sing with us in the weekly morning services as well as for special occasions.

We marked Easter, too, by teaching the congregation a celebratory Easter round which seemed to be well received.

We continue to support the congregation in their sung worship and welcome everybody who enjoys singing to meet on Fridays in the Church Hall at 7pm. Please contact me if you'd like more information.

Thank you to the regular members of the choir for their faithful service: Pauline, Angela, Sue, Annie, Janice, John, Tony and Wendy and to those who augmented our numbers at Christmas and Easter.

Marjorie Gibbs
01728 727417/marjoriegibbs@suffolkonline.net

Light house group

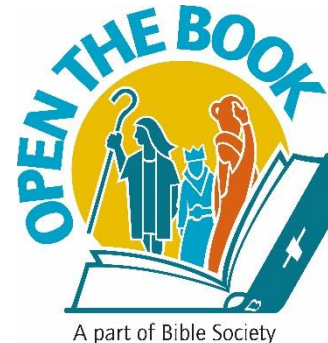
Light house group is a small home group that meets at the Crossroads on each Tuesday. As part of their discipleship they organised the Bags of Hope for the homeless. They also ran the wreath making workshop. Such activities allow them to share their faith and to see faith in action.



Carol Cotton

Open the Book

Twice a term a group from the church goes into Saxmundham & Kelsale Primary schools and, using a resource developed by the Bible Society, retells a story from the Bible with drama. Usually the group members dress in simple costumes to represent the characters they are playing and, where appropriate, the children are encouraged to join in as well. Sometimes particular themes are requested by a school to fit in with their teaching and we try to follow the calendar where possible with special focus on Easter and Christmas.



Last year Open the Book celebrated its 20th anniversary and it is a real privilege to be part of a national initiative giving us the opportunity to share the Gospel message with the children and their teachers. Both schools really appreciate the presentations and we have received some very encouraging feedback from the children themselves – it's great to be recognised on the footpath and remembered! "You're God, aren't you?!"

If you are interested in joining the group, please do speak to any of the members. We would especially – but not exclusively – welcome a few more men.

Doug Fletcher – Group coordinator

Pastoral Care

Potentially, there was a need for a place in Saxmundham where the bereaved might go once a month to share their experience with trained listeners and each other. A monthly, afternoon, Bereavement Café was proposed and a bereavement care awareness course was run for the sixteen volunteers who were willing to serve on a rota administered by Jill Stuchfield. Training for those volunteers and some others was delivered in St John's by Care for the Family in January and the first of a series of monthly meetings was held in At the Crossroads in February. Demand for these proved to be low and, while loyal volunteers provided a useful social opportunity for some, little progress was made toward the primary goal of helping the bereaved. The situation is to be reviewed during 2020.



A much more positive note may be struck in relation to pastoral care generally. The need for coordination of pastoral visits led to the establishment of a pastoral care team. Sue Potter and Christine Williams coordinate volunteers and seek to provide the optimum levels of support where needed.

And let's not forget:

The concerts and plays
The home groups
The (two) parent and toddler groups
The Hub after school outreach
The solos lunches
The refreshments after and even before services
The Palm Sunday parade
The Good Friday witness in Fromus Square
The Remembrance Day service and parade
The compilation and printing of the weekly benefice news
The project management
The drama group
The scrabble club
The Christmas tree festival
Organists
Song selectors
All the other things this rather wonderful family make happen, without being asked
The fun we had!

The annual accounts for 2019

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention.

- 1 which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

G Haxell
Gwen Haxell

Dated:

2/3/2020

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Saxmundham							
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019							
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT							
			Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	2019	2018
		Note	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts							
Planned giving			47,439		6,930	54,369	52,577
Collections at services			10,194		1,355	11,549	10,630
Youth worker support					1,625	1,625	11,797
Grants		3	0	0	3,300	3,300	84,962
Donations		4	4,289	0	12,505	16,794	29,732
Other giving / receipts		5	965	0	4,387	5,352	2,631
VAT Recovered						0	31,690
Gift aid and GASDS recovered			7,817		947	8,764	8,024
			70,704	0	31,049	101,753	232,043
Activities for generating funds							
Fund raising events		6	2,636	0	0	2,636	1,412
Hall and Church hire			3,781			3,781	3,921
Investment income							
CBF Deposit fund interest			175			175	154
Church activities							
Fees for funerals and weddings			1,986			1,986	2,283
Church weekend					3,597	3,597	
Holiday club					501	501	989
Shop				15,956		15,956	3,475
Toddler group (Monday)					489	489	113
Toddler group (Wednesday)					403	403	703
TOTAL RECEIPTS			79,282	15,956	36,040	131,277	245,093
PAYMENTS							
Church activities							
Centenary share			56,276			56,276	42,321
Clergy and staff expenses			2,755			2,755	2,986
Youth work					8,335	8,335	21,780
Church running costs		7	9,190	0	3,913	13,104	8,299
Utilities			2,560			2,560	1,737
Hall running costs			1,193			1,193	2,375
Hall refurbishment			5,767			5,767	
Shop (At the crossroads)				17,178		17,178	164
Roof					3,775	3,775	110,953
Reordering					916	916	
Other payments		8	0	0	4,034	4,034	2,249
Equipment purchases			1,593			1,593	844
Holiday club					1,004	1,004	990
Church weekend					4,030	4,030	150
Outreach			1,339		250	1,589	1,155
CAP					14,989	14,989	7,391
Toddler group (Monday)					0	0	187
Toddler group (Wednesday)					812	812	750
Giving charity and mission		9	3,819			3,819	5,330
TOTAL PAYMENTS			84,493	17,178	42,059	143,730	209,661
NET MOVEMENT ON FUNDS			-5,211	-1,222	-6,019	-12,453	35,432

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Saxmundham						
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019						
Notes to accounts						
1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis.						
2 The movement in different funds during the year showing balances of accounts as at 31st December 2019						
	1 Jan 2019	Total to 31 Dec 2019				
Unrestricted	Restated	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance	
General account	25,761	77,121	-84,493	3,597	21,986	
Officiation fees	3,349	1,986	0	-4,907	428	
Interest	241	175	0	-417	0	
Designated						
General reserve	12,000	0	0	-162	11,838	
Flowers		0	0	360	360	
Shop trading	6,197	15,956	-13,077	-3,600	5,476	
Shop reserve	12,083		-4,102	3,600	11,581	
Restricted accounts						
Connections	14,285	8,417	-3,616		19,086	
Reorder	3,691	0	-916		2,775	
Youth Work	18,492	1,625	-8,335	-11,666	116	
Roof (& window)	22,099	8,300	-3,775		26,624	
Fabric	0	7,500	-533		6,967	
Flower fund	74	0	-14		60	
Hand bells	412	0	0		412	
Tower bells	270	12	0		282	
Toddlers Mon	219	489	0		708	
Toddlers Wed	1,624	403	-812		1,216	
Specifics	125	8,473	-9,068	1,529	1,059	
CAP	12,319	820	-14,989	11,666	9,816	
	133,241	131,277	-143,730	0	120,789	
Funds are represented by			2018	2019		
			£	£		
Bank current account			95,870.00	83,963.98		
Bank current account - Shop			6,197.00	5,476.00		
CBF Church of England Deposit Account			31,174.00	31,349.00		
			133,241	120,789		
Restatement of opening balances						
The classification of funds as Unrestricted, Designated and Restricted was reviewed in the year.						
At By The Crossroads shop, in error, was not included in the 2018 accounts. This has been recognised in the 2019 financial statements.						
Transfers between accounts						
Income from Officiation fees and Interest are general income of the PCC and the year end balances have been transferred to the General account. The closing balance of £428 on the Officiation fees are due to the Diocese and were paid in January 2020.						
Specific donors who had given to the Youth work fund were contacted and asked if they would agree for their donations to be transferred to CAP. If the donor agreed those monies were transferred in the year.						
The closing balance on the Specifics account is made up of a funeral collection which was passed to the nominated charities in 2020. The shortfall on this account was generated by collections for the Holiday club and Church weekend not covering costs and has been charged to the General fund.						
The PCC agreed to allocate £50 per month for flowers in the Church.						

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Saxmundham					
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019					
Notes to accounts					
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	
		£	£	£	
3 Grants					
Roof				3,300	
TOTAL		0	0	3,300	
4 Donations					
Running costs		120			
General		3,293		5	
Organist		270			
Church Box		347			
Window and roof				5,000	
Fabric				2,500	
Bequests Fabric				5,000	
SHCT Bike ride		259			
TOTAL		4,289	0	12,505	
5 Other receipts					
Funeral offerings		797		4,375	
Bank loyalty receipt		118			
Tower bells				12	
Refund of utility overpaym		30			
Sale of desk		20			
		965	0	4,387	
6 Fundraising events					
Concert - Gilbert and Sulli		627			
Concert - John Viera		1,401			
2018 Christmas party		608			
		2,636	0	0	
7 Church running costs					
Organist		904			
Flowers				14	
Services		182		1,078	
Churchyard maintenance					
Worship materials		1,251		157	
Room hire				1,600	
Insurance		2,404			
Website		29		531	
CCLI Licence		702			
Church alarm				533	
Fire safety					
General running costs		3,719			
TOTAL		9,190	0	3,913	
8 Other payments					
Funeral offerings				4,034	
Total		0	0	4,034	
Wedding and Funeral offerings are cost neutral. See note 5.					

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Saxmundham					
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019					
Notes to accounts					
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	
		£	£	£	
9 Giving to charity and mission					
STOWE		935			
Christian Aid		935			
Water Aid		935			
Suffolk Historic Churches Trust		15			
Leiston Town Pastors		1,000			
Total		3,819	0	0	
Payments to STOWE, Christian Aid and Water Aid relate to 2018 Giving by the PCC					
The PCC have agreed Giving of 10% of 2019 income. Leiston Town Pastors was part of the.					
The balance will be paid in 2020					