



**St Laurence's Church Wicken
Annual Report
and
Financial Statement for 2016**

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The Mission Statement of St Lawrence's

We aim prayerfully to serve our communities – working together in practical ways, helping people to experience the love of God and grow as disciples of Jesus. We enjoy each others' company as we celebrate God's hope, life and the beauty of his creation.

Wicken Parochial Church Council Membership 2016

Ex Officio – Clergy

Eleanor Whalley (from 14 November 2016)

Ex Officio – Wardens

Robert Fuller

Richard Bramley

Ex Officio - Synods

Helen Randall

Elected members who stood down on 7 April 2016

Joy Martin

Shirley Covill

Elected members from 7 April 2016 (year of election in brackets, if known)

Julie Rash (1999)

Hazel Woodroffe

Robin James

Jenny James

Alex Fuller

Sonia Jones (2016)

David Pennal (2016)

Elected/appointed officers of the PCC

Vice-chair: Helen Randall

Treasurer: Julie Rash

Secretary: David Tickner, member of Soham PCC, acts as secretary

Electoral Roll Officer: Not appointed

Safeguarding Officer: Claudia Stein-Carr

Administrative Information

Church Name: St Laurence's, Wicken

Address: Church Road, Wicken,
Cambridgeshire, CB7 5XT

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd Eleanor Whalley

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, High Street, Soham,
Cambridgeshire CB7 5HE

Inspecting Architect: J. Limentani, Marshall Sisson Architect

Independent Examiner: Jilly Rogers, 4 Butts Lane, Wicken, Ely,
Cambridgeshire CB7 5XU

Charity Registration Number: The Parochial Church Council of

St Laurence's Church, Wicken is a charity operating within Ely Diocesan Board of Finance,
registered charity number 245456

**Saint Andrew's Church, Soham and Saint Laurence's Church, Wicken.
A meeting to elect churchwardens for 2016/2017, held in
Saint Laurence's Church, Wicken on the 7th April 2016**

The following were elected –

St Laurence's:
Richard Bramley and Robert Fuller

St Andrew's:
Margaret Fisher and Christopher Palmer

There followed the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Opening prayer was led by Helen Randall.
Apologies for absence were received.

1. Minutes of the 2015 APCM were agreed and signed.

2. Appointment of Deanery Synod representatives.

Delia Tickner and Jo Sturgeon were appointed for one year. Helen Randall was re-appointed for St Laurence's.

3. Appointment of sidesmen.

St Laurence continued its informal arrangement.
St Andrew's sidesmen were re-elected en bloc

4. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts for each church.

St Laurence: Jilly Rogers
St Andrew's: David Giles

5. Annual Report for 2015.

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Thanks were expressed to those who contributed to and compiled the report. Congratulations were extended to all who had kept both churches active during the interregnum, including the Rural Dean, Mike Banyard, who had given much support behind the scenes.

6. Financial statements.

St Laurence's: Julie Rash presented the accounts. The Parish Share had been paid by closing the W51 account, with £1500 carried forward for this year's Parish Share. The accounts were adopted, with thanks to Julie Rash.

St Andrew's: Simon Wright presented the accounts. The Parish Share had been paid after the transfer of funds from the Guntons Close account, now closed. The organ was now fully paid for. The accounts were adopted, with thanks to Simon Wright, along with Margaret Fisher, Lynne Webb and Daphne Laycock.

7. Fabric, goods and ornaments.

St Laurence's: Richard Bramley took the meeting through various projects undertaken, and outlined tasks still to be done. More help was needed with general maintenance.

St Andrew's: included in the Annual Report.

8. Wicken Mission Hall

Jean Turner reported. Since December, the boiler had needed repair, which would eat into the financial surplus in the accounts. The Hall continues to be in regular use for a variety of events. Thanks were expressed to Wicken Parish Council for their contribution, and to Jean Turner and her committee.

9. Deanery Synod Report.

Delia Tickner reported. Items discussed included the launch of the Bishop's Strategy for 2025- the new incumbent is expected to take a prominent role – items on training for LLMs, ALMs and others. Synod also held a farewell tea for Tim Alban Jones.

10. Changes in the electoral roll.

St Laurence's now have 19 members. St Andrew's have 104.

11. Election of the PCC.

From St Laurence's, Shirley Covill and Joy Martin stood down. The remainder were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of David Pennal and Sonia Jones.

From St Andrew's, John Cole, Linda Logan and Pam Cole were returned, and Joy Martin was added.

12. Formal merger.

The Bishop's declaration now suspends the merger until the appointment of a new incumbent. This is a legal requirement, which stands for five years, but which would be rescinded upon the appointment.

13. Any other items of parish interest.

Jack White reported that the Friends of Saint Laurence's, which had raised a lot of money for the church, was now moribund. It was decided that the next PCC meeting would examine the position regarding the Friends of Saint Andrew's.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Vicar's Report

I write this conscious that all but 7 weeks' worth of church activity in our parishes during 2016 took place in my absence – and to very good effect at that. On behalf both myself and all who have contact with our churches, I'd like to thank everyone who carried the burden of the interregnum so well and so graciously; and to thank them too for not dropping their respective batons now that I've arrived here amongst you (including the baton of compiling and formatting these reports...). I chose as the Bible Reading for my licensing service 'We are the body of Christ' (1 Corinthians 12: 4-27), and it has been a tremendous help and encouragement to me to be somewhere where St Paul's exhortation to think and act corporately is taken to heart; somewhere where ministry is seen not as the preserve of the vicar, but as a task (and a joy!) to be shared amongst all who wish to have a hand in it. And by ministry I mean *everything* that makes up parish life – the apparently 'big' things and the seemingly 'small' things; from standing at the front to dusting the window ledges. You might feel that your contribution is that of a little toe in relation to what others contribute, but lose your little toe and the body, I'm told, finds it hard to stand upright... Thank you *all* for *all* that you do; and thank you, above all, for your continuing prayers and good cheer. The reports in this document paint a mixed picture of where we find ourselves: they show areas where life is flourishing, and areas of challenge and of struggle. The state – and 'state' it is – of both parishes' finances, and the structural condition of our buildings present significant cause for concern, despite the unquestionable dedication and competence displayed by those to who have delegated responsibility for their day-to-day management. Both PCCs are in the process of addressing these issues, and – with the attention and concern which we are *all* called to give to these areas – we can, I hope and pray, look forward to more promising reports on them this time next year. Thank you to all involved with the Friends of St Andrew's which, upon its closure this year, is making arrangements for the transfer of its remaining funds into the PCC account. Monies will be restricted for use in relation to St Andrew's fabric and building, and will be a real help.

Last but not least, thank you to our friends from other churches – to the three Colins (Colin Watkins, Methodist Minister; Colin Stringer, Baptist Minister; and Colin Harrod, Salvation Army Officer) and the members of their fellowships; and to Roman Catholic friends – for making me so welcome within the wider Christian family of Soham and Wicken, and for all we have lived and worked on together during the course of 2016; and thank you to those from St Andrew's and St Laurence's whose heart it is to fan the flame of our ecumenical relations

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone' (1 Corinthians 12: 4-6). We are stronger together than alone, and *together* we are called to share Christ's Good News. As the late Swedish Lutheran, Dag Hammarskjöld, put it: 'For all that has been – thanks. For all that will be – yes'. On we go!

Eleanor
The Revd Eleanor Whalley
Priest in Charge of Soham and Wicken

St Laurence's Church Wicken Electoral Roll as at 6 April 2017

The electoral roll as at 7 April 2016 was recorded as totalling 21.

There have been no additions during the year (as those names included in 2017 which were not included in 2016 should all have been included in 2016).

There has been one deletion.

The electoral roll as at 6 April 2017 thus totals 26.

I have agreed with the Diocese that a new roll will be prepared for Wicken Parish Church in 2020, thereby bringing us in line with the rest of parishes in the Church of England. Annual revisions will continue as per this year between now and then.

Prepared by Eleanor Whalley
Priest in Charge, in the absence of an Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Report – Saint Laurence’s

PCC meetings have been held jointly with St Andrew’s, and much of the business has been common to both churches, in particular the vacancy and the appointment of Eleanor. Finances have been difficult, a situation not helped by the failure of a grant application to help with much-needed roof repairs.

The long-running saga of Wicken Mission Hall is now, after lengthy and complicated legal negotiations, at the point of conclusion.

Other issues included the purchase of radio microphones and a beautiful rebinding of the Banns book. As with St Andrew’s, there have been a few security issues, which appear now to have been resolved.

A quinquennial inspection is now due.

St Laurence’s Church, Wicken For the year ended December 2016 Treasurer’s Report

As was anticipated at the beginning of 2016, when I wrote to every member on the electoral roll, St Laurence’s was unable to meet its parish share, and this time, we had no reserves to call upon.

Early in 2016 we closed our DBF W051 general account - the only reserves we had. This enabled us to pay the balance of the 2015 parish share, and gave us a foothold for the 2016 parish share. So we had a head-start for the year amounting to £1,423. Disregarding this sum, our income in 2016 was far less than our outgoings, and even with the £1,423 start, we still failed to pay the 2016 parish share by the sum of £1,558.

The situation is dire, especially as we began 2017 with very little in the bank. To make ends meet, we need an income of approximately £12,235 per annum, of which £9,575 forms the parish share for 2017). This equates to £1,020 per month or £235 per week. Just to give you an idea how far off the mark we are: In 2016 giving amounted to £5,527, and fundraising £1,789, PCC fees £1,109 (a higher sum than usual). This equals an income of £8,425. If 2017 proceeds in the same way as 2016, then I anticipate a parish share shortfall of around £3,575 – a very serious situation indeed! This is clearly a situation that needs to be addressed.

One way you could help would be by committing to a regular standing order so that St Laurence’s could enjoy a steady regular income, even when you are not physically at church. Another way is by looking at the amount you give and prayerfully consider whether you could increase this slightly.

If I hold a Gift Aid Declaration for you, please remember to let me know if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains, as it is against the law for me to claim tax back if you haven’t paid sufficient tax to cover the claim. Basic rate tax is currently 20%, which currently allows us to reclaim 25 pence in the pound.

If you would like to make your offering by standing order, please take a standing order form from the back of the church to complete and take it to your bank.

This is a challenging time for us all. Once again, thanks from the whole PCC for all that you already give to St Laurence’s, in time and money and lots of practical ways.

Every blessing in Christ,
Julie Rash

Annual Fabric and Maintenance Report March 2016-2017

July 2016 Prestige Fire Safety checked fire extinguishers
31 August 2016 E Bound Alarm Serviced I was on site
30 October 2016 Lynch gate pressure washed down to remove moss,
also bench seat and west door washed
8 November 2016 Checked over roof from tower.
12 November 2016 Gravestone knocked down by vandals. Reported to
police
14 December 2016 Roof inspection

Note: Chancel north side east wall needs pointing up and top stone reset.
On the same roof on buttress to nave, coping tiles have slipped and need
resetting in render.

Today cleaned out roof guttering on chancel on north roof. Generally cleaned up of
leaves in yard

Electrics 21 April 2015

Full electrical check passed but with work to do

1. Earth wire to terminal on outside porch lamp. Switch now done (self)

Still to do:

2. All hanging lamps in nave to be rewired
3. Old redundant wire to be removed from conduit - wire runs from pulpit
switch to consumer panel.
4. Heaters need a switching panel or some means of switching
5. Redundant live wires at south door to come out
6. Portable items need PAT Test Outstanding:

Also applied for grant for roof on north side but unsuccessful on second time of applying
(Listed Places of Worship February 2016)

Jobs outstanding:

1. Bell Tower to clean and treat for woodworm. Ironwork to clean and paint.
2. Sounding Chamber to clean and draught-proof
3. Second step tread rail to re-fix
4. Nave Some woodworm in pews
5. Chancel East window to rebuild and replace missing glazing bars

Cosmetic jobs:

1. Windows to clean, ironwork to paint.
2. Roof to de-moss

Security in Churchyard

Church wall reported to Parish Council. No return reply or direct correspondence.

Richard Bramley

Deanery Synod Report

The Diocese has now hosted two 'open' Deanery Synod meetings in each part of the Diocese, to firstly consult and then update everyone about the new Diocesan Strategy. Our Deanery's meetings were held at Chippenham Village Hall and were very well attended. They were helpful presentations and led to good discussion and participation by attendees. Each PCC now has a 'Strategy' folder to help it work through how we can apply these ideas at local level. We did not begin this in Wicken during 2016, due to being in Vacancy for most of the year, but are now addressing this via our Ministry Team in the first instance.

Arising from the above, Synod received presentations from the Diocesan Directors of Ministry and Mission. They presented encouraging new approaches to training and to local outreach projects, and made us aware of funding pots for both. The stories they told, of imaginative new activities already getting underway and bearing fruit, were inspiring. In our Benefice we have already begun tapping into training opportunities, and we are planning to host one of the new Diocesan Discipleship courses in Soham this spring/summer. Meanwhile, mission ideas will hopefully spring out of Ministry Team's forthcoming discussions of the Diocesan Strategy.

The Deanery continues to take an overview of financial matters across our PCCs, aiming to enable each of us to pay our full Parish Share (which, if achieved, keeps costs down for us all).

Helen Randall
(Deanery Synod Representative for St Laurence's, Wicken)



We have received support from the



Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation

Wicken Mission Hall Sub-committee Annual Report

January - December 2016 Highlights of 2016

As everyone knows fund raising is becoming increasingly difficult but we have once again had a very busy year raising funds and these are listed below.

21st February Film Show	£186.65 loss
13th March Dinner in Hall	£514.70 profit
11th June Community Breakfast	£169.04 "
16th May Pre-loved Sale	£340.00 "
12th June Queen's Birthday Tea	£104.29 "
25th June Fete teas proceeds (given to Fete Committee)	£259.29 "
6th June Picnic round Pond a village social event	£171.35
3rd December Christmas Dinner approx	£1000 profit.

Sunday teas and books continued to raise funds throughout the year.

All of this money goes towards maintaining and improving our Hall and making it the great function room it is and we receive many compliments on this over the course of the year.

Money received

Our thanks to the Parish Council for their continuing annual contribution which helps with the running of the Hall

We also received from Wicken Fete Committee £500 towards our aim of providing the Hall with a dishwasher and this we hope to put in place in the New Year.

Major repairs

Repair of Wood floor	£1873.45
Boiler repair	£2228.98

Use of the Hall

The Hall continues to be used for many village events, parties and group meetings including Fen Tiggers, Wicken Band, yoga, Pilates and Samara ballet class, Coffee mornings and Swallowtails plus wedding receptions etc.

Membership of the Hall Sub Committee

The present membership of the Wicken Mission Hall sub-committee at the end of the year was: Bridie Heuer (Treasurer), Sophie Leek (Secretary), Peter Rash, Jilly Rogers, Jean Turner (Chair), Bob Heuer, Caroline Blott and we have two new members Sonia Jones and Jason Clarke.

We are however losing two of our most valued members Bridie and Bob Heuer who are leaving the village shortly.

All the members generously give their time to support the work of the Hall and particularly to organise the variety of events.

Financial position

The Hall has remained solvent during the past year our new Treasurer making sure costs are kept within budget and items are regularly renegotiated to ensure value for money. Revenue from regular bookings is vitally important and everyone in the village is encouraged to use the Hall, attend the events and contribute to this vital village resource.

Addendum

We are aware that this will probably be our last Annual Report as the sale of the Hall to the Parish Council is progressing and should soon be completed. The Hall will then be leased, on a long lease for a peppercorn rent to the existing committee and a new Charitable Trust is at this present time being set up. This is known as a CIO which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission, and will be run by trustees from various groups within the village for the benefit of the whole community. When the sale of the Hall takes place we will send in accounts from January 2017 to the date of the completion of the sale and the money in the present Hall accounts will then be transferred to the new CIO. The dishwasher has now finally been purchased and installed and we are sure this will be a real asset to us when holding the various functions which will enable us to keep the Hall in excellent order for many years to come.

A statement of the Accounts for 2016 is attached to this report.

Jean Turner
Chair

On behalf of the Mission Hall Sub-Committee

**ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH, WICKEN - FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Receipts & Payments Account - Statement of Assets

		2016		2015
		£	£	£
NOTES				
Managed by Church of England (through Diocesan Board of Finance)				
(H) General Fund CBF W051 - Unrestricted		0		3,014
(I) Chancel Fund CBF W009 - Restricted	(1)	6,439		6,597
	(2)	<u>5,413</u>		<u>4,872</u>
			11,852	14,483
Managed by a Sub-Committee of the PCC				
(J) The Friends of St Laurence's (Wicken PCC) - Restricted			11,232	10,770
Managed directly by the PCC				
(K) Radio Microphone - Designated		0		
(L) Bell Fund - Designated		258		258
(M) General Account - Unrestricted		<u>512</u>		<u>585</u>
			<u>770</u>	<u>843</u>
		<u>23,854</u>		<u>26,096</u>

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Charities Act 1993; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act,
as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jilly Rogers

.....

Jilly Rogers
4 Butts Lane, Wicken
Wicken, Ely, Cambs

**ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH, WICKEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016
Notes to accompany Annual Accounts**

General Fund

Receipts

(A) Giving

Almost the same figure as the previous year. Other donations include non-tax efficient planned giving as well as a CAF donation of £200, a funeral collection of £187, a donation of £250 and a number of smaller donations, including the balance of £69 from the purchase of a radio microphone – see notes (D) and (K).

(B) Fundraising

Sundays Teas had a very successful year, bringing in £578. The usual Harvest Auction raised £134 and was considerably less than previous years. However, the Harvest Lunch raised £637, it being the most successful financially that St Laurence's has had. The only other fundraising event during 2016 was a Sausage Supper in April which raised £439. Overall, fundraising was slightly down on last year.

(C) Other Income

The DBF W051 account was closed (£3,016) in order to pay the balance of the 2015 parish share, amounting to £1,594. The balance gave us a head start for 2016 and the remainder of the fund helped towards the 2016 parish share. There were seven funerals and two weddings, hence higher fees than usual.

(D) Income to Designated Funds

The PCC applied to the DBF W009 Chancel Fund for £368 towards a new radio microphone for use in the Chancel. £250 came from Wicken Fete donations from 2014 and 2015, and a further donation of £100. The final cost left us with a balance of £69 that was reclaimed for general purposes.

Payments

(E)

- There was no annual giving in 2016, due to the fact St Laurence's was unable to pay its parish share in full.
- We paid the usual annual donation of £25 to the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, who had been very generous in the past by giving St Laurence's grants and interest-free loans.
- As stated previously, the DBF W051 account was closed in order to pay the balance of the 2015 parish share.
- The PCC were unable to pay the 2016 parish share in full, leaving a shortfall of £1,557.69.
- The annual fire extinguisher service is now very kindly being undertaken by someone in the community who is willing to do this for St Laurence's and provide the necessary legal documentation, free of charge.
- The Friends of St Laurence's kindly agreed to pay the annual alarm maintenance in 2016.
- The water bill is higher than the previous year, which may be a combination of increased charges and more water being used for Sunday Teas etc.
- Electricity is always difficult to gauge because our usage fluctuates. British Gas (electricity suppliers), increase and decrease our payments accordingly. They are very reliant on regular meter readings from us but I have to confess, we sometimes forget to provide them. A Smart meter would be advantageous.
- Fundraising expenses relate to the rental donation agreed by PCC for use the village hall and meat for the Harvest lunch.

(F) Expenditure from designated funds

See item (D) above.

Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2016

- (G) Expenditure was £100 more than income. However, we failed to pay the parish share in full, leaving a shortfall of £1,557.69. We finished the year with a credit balance of £770.

Please refer to the Statement of Assets to see a clear breakdown of figures managed directly by the PCC.

Statement of Assets

General Fund W051 – Unrestricted

- (H) This account was closed in March 2016 to pay the remainder of the 2015 parish share and give the church a start of £1,443 for the 2016 parish share.

Chancel Fund W009 (Chancel/fabric repairs) – Restricted

- (I) The PCC will never be able to access the opening capital of £4,588. This figure is included in the CBF C of E Deposit Fund. The total amount in this Deposit Fund is £11,027 and if we deduct the opening capital, we are left with an amount of £6,439(1) that is readily available for chancel/fabric repairs by contacting the EDBF. In 2016, £368 was drawn from the fund to pay for a much-needed radio microphone for use in the chancel. The CBF Investment Fund amounting to £5,413(2) is accessible but would take a long time to organise and we would have to have a good reason for wanting it. We would have to start by writing to EDBF to make our request. This would have to be approved by the Charity Commission and is the part of the procedure which could take several months.

The Friends of St Laurence's (Wicken PCC) – Restricted (Fabric only)

- (J) Income for the year amounted to £890, which included £120 tax back from gift-aided donations. The Friends paid for the building alarm maintenance contract and alarm, receiving centre subscription of £428.

Radio Microphone for Chancel – Designated

- (K) The PCC applied to the DBF W009 Chancel Fund for £368 towards a new radio microphone for use in the Chancel. £250 came from Wicken Fete donations from 2014 and 2015, and a further donation of £100. The final cost left us with a balance of £69 that was reclaimed for general purposes.

The Bell Fund – Designated

- (L) There were no additional contributions to this fund which currently stands at £258.

General Account - Unrestricted

- (M) The amount of unrestricted fund available at the end of 2016 was £770, of which £258 is designated bell fund as shown, leaving £512.

ITEMS NOT SHOWN IN THE ACCOUNTS

Nil