

## Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll as at 27 April 2017 was recorded as totalling 26.

There have been no additions and no deletions during the year.

The electoral roll as at 12 April 2018 thus totals 26.

I agreed with the Diocese last year 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

### Friends of Saint Laurence's Church Wicken



#### A SHORT REPORT ON THE FRIENDS OF ST LAURENCE - 2017/18

The Friends' Committee is a sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council. It exists to maintain a fund for the upkeep and enhancement of the fabric of St Laurence's Church, Wicken. That fund relies solely upon donations. Over the reporting period the membership fell with the departure of the treasurer. That position has been filled by an existing member. Although the Vicar's position will be kept vacant for the foreseeable future it is the intention that the membership number will increase in the coming year.

The Committee meets when there are matters to discuss. It has met three times during the reporting period, the most recent being 28<sup>th</sup> March. It has approved and paid for the burglar alarm maintenance (£428.40) and electrical work for heating and lighting (£1019).

Donations totalled £1550 (including gift aid).

At the start of the year a new brochure about the church and the Friends was printed. It was distributed to various points around the village, including the Church, the Village Hall and the Maid's Head. For the first time the Friends were represented at the Village Fete in order to raise its profile. Regrettably, in spite of some interest, no further donors resulted.

Richard J C Vousden  
Chairman  
Friends of St Laurence

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018



### St Laurence's Church Wicken Annual Report 2017

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### **The Mission Statement of St Laurence's Church, Wicken and St Andrew's Church, Soham**

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.

The teas drew a very appreciative crowd both from the village and from miles around, and were a great collaborative effort between the St Laurence's team and others across the village.

Behind the scenes, Church Wardens Robert Fuller and Richard Bramley have worked tirelessly to keep the church open and in good order, and Julie Rash spent a final year as PCC Treasurer, a position from which she retired at the end of 2017, promising nonetheless to complete both the End of Year Account for 2017 – something she has very kindly done in conjunction with Jilly Rogers, our volunteer independent examiner - and the most exemplary of handovers to Lady Valerie Bright, our new PCC Treasurer. Thanks to all of them, and – of course – to Wicken PCC members, to Richard Vousden and the Friends of St Laurence's whose committee he chairs, and to the congregation more widely for your continued service to the parish. We look to the future together – I hope – with unstinting faith and confidence in Christ our risen Lord.

Eleanor Whalley, Priest in Charge of Soham and Wicken. April 2018

### **Deanery Synod Report (Wicken)**

On 22 February 2018 I went to Dullingham Hall for the meeting of the synod. Rev'd Sue Giles welcomed us and led opening prayers.

We had a film about Scarborough Deanery. They were looking at reaching out to the people and sharing the love of God. When the film was over we had a discussion about how we could provide what people wanted in their church, better moving with the times. But how? Wicken Church is invited to join Burwell Church on Sunday 13 May at 7pm - this would be contemporary and reflective worship within Thy Kingdom Come – and Dullingham Church on 30 September.

Sonia Jones

## Wicken APCM 2018: Priest in Charge's Report

2017 was, I feel, a very difficult year for St Laurence's and for us as a church community, both individually and collectively.

Once I had arrived in the benefice at the end of 2016, it quickly became clear to me that the parishes of Wicken and Soham faced huge challenges, the seriousness of which had not for the most part previously been recognised or, in Soham's case, known about at either parish or diocesan level. A number of matters in Soham required – and still require - urgent attention and, as a result, discussion of these issues dominated PCC meetings, which were then being held jointly (ie. with Soham and Wicken PCCs meeting together on the same evening). Last summer, a meeting was called for Wicken PCC alone in order to discuss matters relating to the sale of the Mission Hall, a Herculean task nobly managed by Helen Randall. At this meeting, Wicken PCC members expressed their appreciation of being able to meet apart from Soham PCC, as doing so allowed time to be given almost exclusively to Wicken-related matters; Wicken PCC members said too that they felt better able to express themselves when meeting as this much smaller group. It was later agreed by both PCCs that separate PCC meetings would be held when the agenda seemed dominated by issues concerning one parish alone, and particularly when these issues were sensitive.

Soon after this, following quinquennial inspections carried out on both church buildings by our new architect (for whom we had gone to tender in April), the urgency of issues relating to St Andrew's Church building became even more apparent. It was clear that these issues were going to take up a great deal of time at PCC meetings. In line with what had already been agreed by both PCCs, it, therefore, seemed sensible for the PCCs to begin to meet separately. In parallel with this, it was clear to me as Priest in Charge of both parishes that there was no way I as the sole Anglican clergy person for two increasingly diverse parishes both with urgent needs could begin to address the needs of both parishes at once. In October I met with Diocesan colleagues to express my concern that for as long as I remained Priest in Charge of Wicken and Soham, particularly with no regular ordained support at parish level, neither parish would flourish, as I would always be distracted from one by the other. It was a comfort to me to hear this truth acknowledged by my Diocesan colleagues, and to learn that what I was saying was echoed by other clergy who find themselves in charge of market towns which have a village/villages linked to them. The Diocese agreed with me that the best way forward for both parishes would be to split the benefice such that I become priest in charge of just Soham, and Wicken is cared for in a way which will ensure it receives the attention and care it so rightly deserves. Discussions began with parishioners of both parishes in the autumn, under the direction of The Ven. Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge and The Revd. Sue Giles, Rural Dean of Fordham and Quy. These discussions are ongoing.

Whilst all this was going on, St Laurence's life of worship and ministry continued. I am grateful to members of Soham and Wicken's ministry team, to ordained colleagues within the Diocese; and to ministers and lay people from our local Methodist Circuit for their help in maintaining a regular service pattern. Thanks too to Robert Fuller and the band of ringers; to David Pennal and Wicken Wild Choir; Derek Bullman, Wicken's organist, and Lady Valerie Bright who plays on first Sundays; and to Wicken Band, all of whom have enhanced our worship - and fellowship - on special occasions, and/or Sunday by Sunday. On the subject of fellowship, all of us, I am sure, would want to thank those involved with providing refreshments after services and, in the summer months, at our annual Wicken Teas.

## Wicken Parochial Church Council Membership 2017

*Ex Officio – Clergy*

Eleanor Whalley

*Ex Officio – Licensed Lay Ministers*

Ruth Dennigan

Helen Randall

*Ex Officio – Wardens*

Robert Fuller

Richard Bramley

*Ex Officio - Synods*

Sonia Jones

*Elected members who stood down on 27 April 2017*

David Pennal

*Elected members from 27 April 2017 (year of election in brackets, if known)*

Julie Rash (1999)

Hazel Woodroffe

Robin James

Jenny James

Alex Fuller

Sonia Jones (2016)

*Elected/appointed officers of the PCC*

Vice-chair: Not appointed from Wicken. Christopher Palmer  
(member of Soham PCC) agreed to act as Vice Chair

Treasurer: Julie Rash

Secretary: Not appointed from Wicken. David Tickner  
(member of Soham PCC) agreed to act as secretary

Electoral Roll Officer: Julie Rash

Safeguarding Officer: Claudia Stein-Carr until summer 2017;  
Caroline Vinnall from summer 2017  
(both members of Soham PCC)

### **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: Iain Frearson,

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects (from April 2017)

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.**

**Meeting to elect the churchwardens for the parishes of Soham and Wicken, held at 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at Saint Andrew's Church, Soham.**

**1. Welcome**

**Present from Soham:** Eleanor Whalley (in the Chair); David Tickner (Secretary) Judith Petersen, Hazel King, Lynne Webb, Delia Tickner, Jan Frost, Alison Evans, Graham and Wendy Gilmour, Margaret Fisher, Linda and Chris Palmer, John and Diane Cole, Howard and Dawn Laver, Sheila Roach, Linda and Phil Logan, Jean Doty, Ruth Dennigan, Claudia Stein-Carr, Peter and Judith Scott, Candy Stokes, Simon Wright, Mark Campbell and Fiona Hefferan.

**From Wicken:** Eleanor Whalley (in the Chair); Sonia Jones, Hazel Woodroffe, Julie Rash, Alex Fuller, Robert Fuller, Robin and Jenny James and Richard Bramley.

**2. Apologies for absence**

**From Soham:** Susan Taylor, Pam Cole, Geoff Fisher and Joy Martin.

**From Wicken:** Helen Randall, David Pennal and Jean Turner.

**3. Churchwardens' length of service.**

Churchwardens have customarily been elected for terms of one year. The proposal that the practice should continue was carried with no votes against and two abstentions.

**4. Election of Churchwardens for Soham Parish Church.**

Margaret Fisher was proposed by Susan Taylor and seconded by Linda Palmer. Christopher Palmer was proposed by Geoffrey Fisher and seconded by John Cole. These were elected unopposed.

**5. Election of churchwardens for Wicken Parish Church.**

Robert Fuller was proposed by Julie Rash and seconded by Hazel Woodroffe. Richard Bramley was proposed by Hazel Woodroffe and seconded by Joan Bullman. These were elected unopposed.

**Annual Parochial Church Meetings of Soham and Wicken Parish Churches held on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, at Saint Andrew's Church, Soham.**

**1. Opening prayer** was led by Eleanor Whalley.

**2. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

See items 1 and 2 above.

**3. Notification of Any Other Business.**

Graham Gilmour wished to raise a question regarding costs of flowers at weddings.

**4. Minutes of last year's APCM.**

The meeting took place on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, at Saint Laurence's Church, Wicken. The reference to the Bishop's Strategy in Item 9 should read "Diocesan Strategy".

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered below.**

Item 12. The formal merger is not being pursued at present, in the light of more urgent matters.

Item 13. Richard Voudsen is taking over as chair of the Friends of Wicken Church, noted with thanks.

The Friends of Saint Andrew's is now wound up, with the funds being transferred to Saint Andrew's for building. Thanks were passed to Geoff Fisher as chair and Chris Morris as treasurer.

**6. Vicar's Report.**

Eleanor highlighted and praised the level of teamwork, and thanked the churches and their community for the welcome she had received. "We are the body of Christ".

**7. Electoral Roll**

Soham: Lynne Webb reported that two names had been added and two deleted, leaving the total at 105.

Wicken: Eleanor reported that there were 26 names on the roll, with a new Electoral Roll to be established for 2020.

**8. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish.**

The secretary referred to the items in the Annual Reports.

**9. The Financial Statements.**

Both sets of accounts had been independently examined, and accepted by the PCCs ahead of the meeting.

Soham: Simon Wright reported that the accounts had been dealt with by the diocesan accountants, at no cost to us. The diocese is helping us by waiving the outstanding unpaid fees and working with us to reduce Parish Share to a manageable level. Simon thanked Margaret Fisher, Lynne Webb and Daphne Laycock for their help, and Simon was in turn thanked for his hard work in difficult circumstances.

Sheila Roach proposed, and Judith Peterson seconded the adoption of the Financial Statement – carried unanimously.

Wicken: Julie Rash reported that we had been granted permission to not pay Parish Share in full, in light of the current situation. Julie was thanked for her hard work.

Hazel Woodroffe proposed, and Robin James seconded the adoption of the Financial Statement – carried unanimously.

**10. Annual Fabric Report.**

Soham: the statement, which is essentially an inventory, was not presented. The quinquennial inspection will highlight necessary building work. The churchwardens were thanked.

Wicken: a quinquennial inspection is also due. The churchwardens were thanked.

**11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.**

Delia Tickner reported, noting concerns that meetings were largely concerned with money rather than worship. The representatives were thanked.