

# ST.BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, LULLINGSTONE



## Annual Report for 2018

**Incumbent (Rector)** Reverend Gary Owen.

**Associate Rector** Reverend Dorothy McGarvey

**Readers** Mr.Peter Davis, Mrs.Jan Thompson

**Diocesan Evangelist** Mr.Peter Sansom

**Licensed Lay Minister** Ms Tina Watson

**Background** St.Botolph's Church, together with St.Martins's, Eynsford and St.Peter & St.Paul's, Farningham form the Benefice of Eynsford with Farningham and Lullingstone. Each parish has its own Parochial Church Council and is responsible for the maintenance of its own church buildings and churchyard. Although the parishes operate independently they cooperate closely, holding united services in rotation, study days, home groups, youth group and other common initiatives. The Benefice Council set up in 2008 has established structures of administration, pastoral care and oversight of financial arrangements within the Benefice. Each PCC appoints 4 representatives to serve on the Council. In addition representatives from the worship, preaching and teaching team, pastoral team, mission and children and young people groups are invited to attend as non voting members.

**Membership** At the 2018 Annual Church Meeting there were 41 members on the Church Electoral Roll. 25 live in the United Benefice (of whom 12 live within Lullingstone parish). In 2019 the roll will be completely revised in accordance with Church of England rules.

### The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity.

Ex-Officio members:

The Rector: Revd.Gary Owen (chairman), Associate Rector: Revd.Dorothy McGarvey

The Churchwardens: Mr.George Comer (vice chairman), Miss Jane Wills

Elected members: Mr. Tony Chapman, Mr.Peter Hill, Mr.Brian Mason, Mrs.Pamela Mason, Ms.Janet Mitchener, Ms.Kass Pateman.

Deanery Synod Representative: Mr.George Comer

At the first meeting of the PCC after the 2018 Annual Meeting Peter Hill was appointed as Electoral Roll Officer. Brian Mason was appointed Treasurer, Pamela Mason was appointed Secretary. Four PCC members were elected to serve on the Benefice Council: George Comer, Peter Hill, Jan Mitchener and Jane Wills. Brian Mason (as Benefice Treasurer) was subsequently co-opted by the Benefice Council as a non-voting member. Kass Pateman agreed to continue to serve as the PCC representative on the committee of the Friends of St.Botolph's Church.

The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, the two Churchwardens, and 2 PCC members (unspecified but usually the Treasurer and Secretary).

Between Annual Church Meetings the PCC met 4 times. During the year the PCC received regular reports from the Benefice Council, and the Friends of St.Botolph's Church. The PCC received reports from George Comer of meetings of the Deanery Synod.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Mr.Peter Davis is currently our Parish Safeguarding Children's and Adult's Representative. All PCC members and those working with children and vulnerable adults have taken safeguarding training.

The wardens have completed a health and safety check of the church and risk assessed its activities to discharge the PCC's duty of care to safeguard parishioners and visitors to the church.

## Review of the year

Weekly services were maintained, Matins being celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and Holy Communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and on each of the major festivals. On Wednesday mornings Morning Prayer and Litany were said in the Church. Young Pilgrims Sunday school is held on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, organised by Helen Owen and Joanna Comer. Usual attendance has increased from 3 to 5. The PCC is grateful to the Castle for the use of their marquee for Young Pilgrims.

One baptism blessing service, 3 baptisms and 2 weddings took place during the year.

The funeral service for Guy Hart Dyke, who died on 12<sup>th</sup> February, took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Guy had given many years of service to our congregation as churchwarden and member of the PCC.

The funeral service for Alan Williams, a past member of our congregation took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

The funeral service for Barbara Sloper, a long standing member of our congregation, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August followed by interment in the churchyard.

Interment of ashes of Laurence Jefferson followed a service in the church.

Four groups from St.Olave's School visited during May.

Hextable Scouts, who were camping at Hulberry, attended a service in August and paraded their flags.

Following the United Benefice service held on 29<sup>th</sup> July a picnic lunch was served in the church due to poor weather.

In September the church was open to welcome participants in the annual Friends of Kent Churches "Ride and Stride". Three members of our Young Pilgrims participated, travelling by bike and scooter.

The licensing as Associate Rector of the Reverend Dorothy McGarvey by the Venerable Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September in St.Martin's Church. Dorothy's acceptance at Lullingstone took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

A Harvest Evensong service for the United Benefice was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

A "Christmas card" invitation to our Christmas services was delivered to every household in the parish and displayed on local notice boards.

Refreshments are served following morning service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. This is a popular opportunity for members of the congregation to socialise and welcome new members of the congregation.

The average Sunday attendance figure throughout 2018 was 21. The average Sunday attendance figure for Sundays in October was 20. Attendance on Easter Day was 29 and on Christmas morning 30. Our traditional "candlelit" carol service attracted 61 people including children.

Our service of remembrance on Armistice day was very well attended. Following the service the bell was rung 100 times as part of the national commemoration of the centenary of the WW1 armistice.

At all morning services in St.Botolph's the form of worship follows the Book of Common Prayer (1662) and the Authorised King James version of the Bible is used. There is a rota for ringing the single bell prior to morning service.

Morning and Evening Prayer are said most days by individuals or families, in their homes or in the church, to pray for our parish. This daily prayer rota has continued successfully since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and will continue in 2019. The church is open every day as a place for private prayer and quiet meditation and receives many visitors.

There is a rota for organists: Kevin Grafton, Derek Wallis, Alan Saunders and Yvonne Jelley have played regularly, David and Liz Meachin, and Barrie Payne also played occasionally. Kevin Grafton retired in November owing to other commitments. We are delighted that Laura Johnson has agreed to join our organists' rota. We are grateful to all our organists for giving their time and expertise.

The Friends of St.Botolph's held an excellent event in September, a talk by Richard Griffin (a former royal protection officer), in support of the maintenance of the church.

The prayer book supplied and managed by the Friends and kept in the north chapel has been greatly welcomed and is very well used.

Volunteers regularly clean the church, supplemented by monthly professional cleaning paid for by the Friends. The Friends have undertaken to cover the cost of emergency gutter cleaning in December. The flower arrangements were of an exceptional standard throughout the year. We are very grateful to all who contribute to the life of our church in so many ways.

## Finance

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was prepared by the treasurer, Brian Mason, independently examined by David Rea and approved by the PCC. The bank current account is held at Barclays Bank plc. The General Account income was £28,033 and expenditure was £ 27,882 resulting in a small surplus of £152.

The position in 2018 remained generally satisfactory. It is essential that planned giving by members is maintained and if possible increased to meet the Benefice and Diocesan requirements **and to keep the church open for worship.**

A grant of £150 was received from the Eynsford Parish Council towards maintenance of the churchyard. The PCC is grateful to all who support the church by giving their time and financial contributions.

The PCC was able to give £1,602 to charity. Charities supported were: Children Change Columbia, Church Homeless Trust, Combat Stress, Demelza Hospice, Friends of Kent Churches, National Churches Trust, Open Doors, Porchlight, Royal British Legion, The Children's Society, The Prayer Book Society.

In memory of Guy Hart Dyke the PCC purchased an engraved memorial bench which is sited outside the main door to the Castle, across the lawn from the church.

**Reading Trust** The property purchased at Borough Green in 2016 has continued to be let and managed by Ibbett Mosely on our behalf. Proceeds from the rent (in 2018 £12,591 after expenses) are held in the Trust for maintenance of the church fabric. The income cannot be used for day to day running of the church. Details of funds held are shown separately in the annual financial statement.

## Church Fabric

It is anticipated that the Quinquennial inspection due in 2018 will now take place during 2019. An inspecting architect has been appointed by the Diocese. All work recommended in 2013 has been carried out.

On behalf of the PCC

Churchwardens \_\_\_\_\_ George Comer \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Wills

PCC Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Pamela Mason