

OUR PURPOSE IS:  
WORSHIPPING GOD, MAKING NEW DISCIPLES and TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



## **DRAYCOTE BENEFICE**

**The Church of St Peter  
Bourton on Dunsmore  
with Draycote**

**Annual Report  
&  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2012**

**Rector**

**Revd. Canon Barbara Clutton**

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**Correspondence Address**

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**Independent Advisor**

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# Annual Report

## Background

St. Peter's Church is situated on Main Street, in the village of Bourton on Dunsmore. Postcode CV23 9QZ.

The Parish is that of Bourton on Dunsmore and Draycote.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

St Peter's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Peter, Bourton on Dunsmore.

In areas of mission and study the PCC also works with the PCC's of the other churches in the Draycote Group – All Saints, Stretton on Dunsmore with St Cuthbert's, Princethorpe; St Nicholas, Frankton and St Leonard, Birdingbury. These include home groups, confirmation classes, children's work and some joint acts of worship.

## Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

*Rector:* The Revd. Canon Barbara Clutton  
*Readers:* Mr. Kevin Downham  
Miss. Elizabeth Kirk

*Wardens:* Mr. Kevin Downham  
Dr David Snead

*Representative to the Deanery Synod:* Mr. Michael Goodman

*Elected Members:* **Mr. K G Downham**  
**Mr. V M Goodman**  
**Mrs. J M Grinnell**  
**Mrs. B Makinson**  
**Dr. T Mitchell**  
**Dr D Snead**  
**Mr. B Sunderland (Electoral Roll Officer)**  
**Mrs. G Sunderland**

*Co-opted Members:* **Mrs. L J Downham (PCC Secretary)**

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The PCC operates without any committees. All members of the PCC are consulted on an as-required basis. Working groups are formed from the PCC membership, co-opting others from the congregation where their expertise can be brought to bear, to resolve specific issues and report their findings and recommendations to the PCC for appropriate action.

The PCC met 5 times during the year. The Churchwardens of the Group parishes continued their periodic joint meetings.

### **1. Church Attendance**

The population of the parish is approximately 234. There are 25 on the Church Electoral Roll. The usual Sunday attendance remained consistent over the year but attendance at special services such as Easter Day, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas, was slightly increased.

### **2. Services**

Our pattern of services has been: week 1 – Morning Praise, week 2 – Holy Communion (evening), week 3 – Holy Communion with no services in the 4<sup>th</sup> week. Benefice joint services have been held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – the venues for these vary. Additionally there is an informal monthly mid-week service in the Village Hall. There has been a continued lay involvement in our Services - in administration of the chalice, reading and leading intercessions.

3. Benefice Remembering Service (All Souls Day) at Stretton - Remembering those whom we love but see no longer. The names remembered were of all who had C of E funerals in the benefice during the past year plus the names of loved ones of our church membership.
4. Occasional Offices. 2 Baptisms, 2 Funerals and 4 Weddings took place during the year.

### **5. Children's Ministry**

We are lucky that there are volunteers across the benefice willing to co-ordinate and help with our children's ministry, which is lay lead by Mrs. Karen Armbrister. During 2012, we ran workshops for Good Friday, Harvest and Christmas. Beginning in April 2012, we were excited to introduce a new, monthly, Saturday afternoon worship activity for children and families (of all ages). This takes place on the second Saturday monthly between 3.30pm and 5pm and includes craft or art activities, stories, music, singing and prayers. Attendance has varied monthly between 10 and 25 children with varying numbers of parents staying to join in. Feedback has been positive. We hope to attract more families during 2013. Details are published on our website [www.draycotegroup.org.uk](http://www.draycotegroup.org.uk).

6. Knightlow School. Revd. Barbara and Karen Armbrister had regularly taken assemblies; the children had attended Stretton Church on special occasions and for end of term Eucharist's. Each child in the new reception class had been blessed and presented with a holding cross at a special assembly, children leaving the school were given the gift of a bible and blessed at the leavers assembly. Also Karen Armbrister has continued the Bible Club she started last year for year 6, called Knightlow Disciples, which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes.

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## **Adult Outreach**

7. House Groups. 4 house groups have met for prayer and bible study across the benefice during the year.
8. Marriage Preparation. Marriage preparation session for couples planning to get married was held in the Village Hall, led by the Rector and very ably supported by Benefice congregation members.
9. Lent. A series of 4 talks by invited guests were given, 2 at Stretton Village Hall and 2 at Bourton/Frankton Village Hall. Each parish provided a simple meal for each talk.
10. Rogation. Rogation began in Church and continued down the lane to Manor Farm in Draycote where farmers, crops and animals were prayed for. The service concluded with refreshments in these beautiful surroundings.
11. Pet Service. In June we held a Pets Service outside the Church Porch. 12 people with various pets attended.
12. Tea Service. On the first Thursday of each month in Bourton & Frankton Village Hall Revd Barbara takes a short service of hymns, prayers, a Bible reading, thought for the day and a short talk or witness talk by an invited guest. This is followed by tea. Average attendance is 20.
13. Lunches. Margaret Francis of St Nicholas, Frankton arranged lunches at The Friendly Inn at Frankton on Shrove Tuesday, Easter, St. George's Day, Harvest and Christmas, mainly for the older folk. All events were well attended (20-30) and much appreciated.

## **14. Church Maintenance and St Peter's Project**

This year there has been a focus on the repairs required to the church (and identified in the Quinquennial in 2010) and while some funding has been secured from English Heritage, significant funds had to be raised locally.

We are grateful to all those who have cleaned the Church and added to its beauty with floral decorations every week of the year. We are also particularly grateful to those who so lovingly maintain graves in the Churchyard - their devotion enhances the richness of our heritage.

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## **15. Finance**

### General

2012 was a fairly good year financially.

### Receipts

Although regular giving was only slightly up, fund raising increased by about a third, fee income was higher and our Diocesan quota was substantially less. We also had a successful insurance claim (to replace stolen lead from the roof) and we received two grants of £6,500 and £3,000.

### Payments

Building costs were much higher. These consisted mainly of costs associated with preparatory studies necessary before we get a further grant from English Heritage towards the cost of the major repair work, which is planned.

### Assets

The sum in our accounts is now about £8,000 higher, which means that we should now be able to do the essential repair (and perhaps some reordering) if we get the EH grant.

## **16. Churchwardens Report**

Our mission statement calls us to Worship God, Transform communities and to Make New Disciples. So how have we fared?

It's probably fair to say that 2012 has been a year of consolidation as we have ventured forth again with two churchwardens at the helm supported by a small but willing and dedicated team. Thanks too to Lesley for taking on the role of PCC secretary as Jean Grinnell stood down after years of dedicated service for which we thank you Jean.

We have worshipped God and worshipped him well. We thank Barbara, David Shaw and Elizabeth Kirk for their inspiration and guidance as they find new ways to bring life into the worship of our church. Kevin Downham was licensed to the Benefice last Easter Sunday. We enjoy a mix of worship styles and services, which bring added colour to our liturgical year.

Music continues to enhance our worship and for that, we must thank Brian Sunderland for his commitment, energy and skill. We were delighted to be able to help him celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organist and present him with a small token of our heartfelt appreciation.

Have we transformed our community? The answer to that we might think is no; we have not transformed but we are transforming; our work is not done, in some ways it is only beginning. We are transforming our community by being alive and having a worshipping presence for our two villages. But we need to do more and I believe we need to explore how we can take our church into the village and engage more with our community.

We have had a number of fellowship events including a barn dance, a quiz night and our carol evening. On a couple of these occasions, the audience was entirely made up of guests invited by the performers and we cannot rely on that. It is a corporate responsibility to invite new people into the hospitality of our fellowship that they too may find the presence of the living Christ not just in our prayer time but also in our playtime.

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As we transform our community we will make new Disciples are we are delighted that a new family from Rugby have felt such a warm welcome that they have decide to make our church the place where they wish to worship.

I would like to thank my fellow churchwarden David for his support, encouragement and commitment and for all the work; he does behind the scenes to keep our St Peters Project on course.

The work on St Peter's will be very visible and this is our opportunity to seize the moment and to reconcile our extended community back into the life of this dedicated worshipping community. As we build on generations past to secure for generations to come we pray for God's blessing on our time and on our talents that both may be rich and pleasing in his sight.

**The PCC takes this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the life and upkeep of St. Peter's during the past year.**

17. The PCC is committed to the vision of the Diocese of Coventry, namely to:
  - a. Worship God
  - b. Make new Christians and Disciples
  - c. Work with others to transform communities