

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

**St Nicholas, Frankton**  
**Annual Report**  
**of the**  
**Parochial Church Council**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2016**

**Rector**

**Revd Alison Massey (from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016)**

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# Annual Report

## Background

1. St Nicholas' 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 Nicholas

## Parochial Church Council

2. 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: Revd Alison Massey (from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016)

Wardens: Mrs Margaret Francis  
Mr John Willoughby

Representative to the Deanery Synod: Canon Ian Francis

Elected Members: Mrs Ruth Styles (to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016)  
Mr George Browning  
Hon Mark Maffey  
Mrs Jenny Smith  
Mr Timothy Wilson

3. 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.

4. The PCC met 6 times during the year. The Churchwardens of the benefice parishes continued their periodic joint meetings.

## Church Attendance

5. The population of the parish is approximately 340 comprising 270 adults and 70 children. There are 19 on the Church Electoral Roll, 5 of whom are not resident within the parish. The usual Sunday attendance, averaged over the year but excluding Occasional Offices, Easter day, Harvest and Christmas, was 19.

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## **Services**

6. The Benefice was in an interregnum until 19<sup>th</sup> September when Revd Alison became our Rector. During the interregnum we only called on clergy for communion services. Margaret Francis has arranged visiting clergy for all churches in the benefice. All other services have been lay led – usually by the churchwardens.

7. Our pattern of services has been: week 1 - BCP Communion, week 2 - no service, week 3 – Morning Praise (lay led) and week 4 – no service. Additionally there is a benefice communion service at Stretton on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and there are 2 mid-week communions and a mid-week ‘Service and Tea’ in the Village Hall for the group each month. When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday a benefice communion has been held in one of the parish churches in turn. This pattern was maintained throughout the year. There has been continued lay involvement in our services - in administration of the chalice, reading and leading intercessions.

7. The “Celebrate@4” service has continued on the fourth Saturday afternoon of each month alternating between the Village Halls at Bourton and Stretton. Attendance has continued to average around 50 comprising adults (male and female) and children.

8. 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 CofE funerals in the benefice during the past year plus the names of loved ones of our church membership.

9. Occasional Offices. 1 baptism, 1 Wedding and 1 funeral took place during the year.

## **Children’s Ministry**

10. We are blessed to have volunteers across the benefice willing to help with our children’s ministry. Good Friday and Christmas workshops in the Benefice were well attended by Frankton children.

11 Knightlow School. Ruth Styles resigned as our Foundation Governor on the Governing Body and has been replaced by Angie Maffey. We are most grateful to both for their dedication and support.

## **Outreach**

12. House Groups. 3 house groups have met for prayer and bible study across the benefice during the year.

13. Lent. A York course “Psalms” was held at Margaret’s home at “The Firs” over a 5 week period and attended 15 people from across the benefice.

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17. Pet Service. In June we held a Pet's Service in the Church. 14 people and a variety of pets attended – the latter being well behaved!. The dogs were all well behaved!

18. Tea Service. On the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall we hold a service of hymns, prayers, a Bible reading, thought for the day or a short talk by different leaders. This is followed by tea, homemade cakes and good fellowship. Average attendance is 17.

19. Lunches. We arranged lunches at The Friendly Inn at Frankton on Shrove Tuesday, St. George's Day, Mid-Summer, Harvest and Christmas, mainly for the older folk. All events were well attended (c.20) and much appreciated.

### **Safeguarding**

20. The PCC is wholly committed to the safeguarding of all parishioners, and has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy dated 1 November 2015, which is reviewed annually and our commitment confirmed. We are also committed to the Diocesan policies for 'Safer Recruitment' and, specifically, the 'Recruitment of ex-offenders'. Copies of the parish commitment to safeguarding and details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, presently Ian Francis, are displayed in church. The PCC takes due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

21. The PCC remains committed to ensuring all appropriate roles are filled by those who have been DBS checked, and the PCC has also committed that each individual PCC member will attend at least a basic level of safeguarding training by the end of 2017, subject to there being availability on courses in the Diocese. This training will be repeated every three years. The Parish Safeguarding Officer has attended further appropriate training during 2016.

22. There were no incidents recorded in the parish for the year ending 31 December 2016.

### **Building and Churchyard**

23. Throughout the centuries, St Nicholas church has offered not only a place for prayer and quiet reflection – away from what is increasingly a frenetic pace of everyday life, in a world of great uncertainty – but also provided a beautiful backdrop for our village and an ideal subject for many photographs. However, ensuring that the church and its grounds remain picturesque requires a great deal of people's time and maintenance which, unfortunately, still continues to fall on the shoulders of a few individuals who willingly give of their time, so that many others may enjoy the fruits of their labour. We are hugely indebted to these few as the result is a churchyard that is a joy to behold, a church which inside remains clean, tidy and welcoming to all, as well somewhere that brings warmth and joy to those who come from all points of the United Kingdom – in short, memories of the church are often cherished long after a visit to it, leading to return journeys being undertaken later on in life.

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24. Particular thanks must be expressed to Claire Gardener, Tim Wilson and David Jones for keeping the grass under control – and doing so without the aid of a ride on mower! Over the last few years, another member of the congregation – Geoff Earles – has devoted considerable time, energy and attention to cutting the grass, tending the various flower borders, as well as maintaining the rockery garden around the back of the church by the compostable toilet. This last year has seen Geoff understandably ease up on his efforts, in order to enjoy more of his retirement relaxing, rather than working – his presence and wisdom are greatly missed, but the time has come to hand over the reins in dealing with the flora and fauna. A concerted effort by Adrian Gardner, Mark Maffey and Tim Wilson in the summer dealt with the various gutters and downpipes, resulting in a great deal of debris removed and weeds on east side of the church were attacked with vigour. As a result, the churchyard continues to look the best it has done so for many years. The fruits of this extensive toil and labour are visible to all, and we are grateful to everyone concerned, for their time and efforts. The autumn saw Adrian Gardner tackle the main path from the church down to the main notice board, with the result that fresh gravel has been laid down – another time consuming and labour intensive task that is greatly appreciated.

25. Turning to the church building itself, we are also very grateful to Adrian Gardner, Mark Maffey, Tim Wilson and Russell Pratty for attending to various ongoing jobs. These include dealing with the bell tower roof and clearing it of various forms of greenery, tackling the gutters and maintaining the electrics, fixtures and fittings - things that are often taken for granted as always working. Unfortunately there are, however, a number of projects that will require more extensive work, such as repairing the plastering above the choir stalls on the left hand side of the church - as one faces the altar - the vestry door and, of increasing concern, the wall by the notice board at the church gates, which is suffering from a number of stones loosening. Over time, Ian Francis has attended to the vestry door but the stage has been reached where a more permanent solution is required, though what this is, may not necessarily be easy to answer!

26. As always, the churchwardens are grateful to Ian Francis for continually tending to a number of various ongoing projects, in addition to the vestry door (mentioned above) and the sound and visual systems. We now have in place a projector and screen which help to make worship more “welcoming” for those who might not be regular church goers and helps to spread God’s Word to a potentially wider – and more captive – audience.

27. We are also deeply indebted to those who spend their time in cleaning the church and adding to its beauty, by ensuring that there are regular floral decorations in place. In passing, I would like to pass on my thanks to my fellow churchwarden – Margaret Francis – and Sue Wilson for their unstinting work on cleaning the church, to make it tidy whatever the weather outside. The combined efforts of those who lovingly give of their time – both inside and outside of the church – help to ensure that the richness of our heritage is enhanced for all to enjoy. I am pleased to say that during the last year some volunteers have come forward to offer their services, with regards maintaining the church. This offer is greatly appreciated, but even so, there is a great deal that still falls on a few shoulders. To this end, we are always most grateful for any offers of help – no matter how little time one can give – as there are always lots of suitable jobs to do.

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