

# **St Michael and All Angels Church**

**Annual Report  
2020**



**Wadenhoe  
Parochial Church Council**

# St Michael and All Angels Church, Wadenhoe

## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020

### 1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Michael and All Angels Church stands on an ancient site at the top of a hillspur, isolated from the village of Wadenhoe which lies below by the River Nene. It is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England and is listed as number 1227141 on the Register of the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) as a Grade II\* historic protected building. The church address is Church Street, Wadenhoe, Peterborough, PE8 5ST

#### A. Addresses for correspondence:

<b>The Revd Canon Brian Withington</b> The Rectory 60 Main Street Aldwincle Kettering NN14 3EP	<b>OR</b>	<b>Mr Stephen Hall</b> PCC Secretary Manor Farm Wadenhoe Peterborough PE8 5SX
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#### B. PCC Members who have served from 01 January 2020 until the date this report was approved:

<b>Incumbent:</b>	<b>The Revd Canon Brian Withington</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Churchwarden 1: Churchwarden 2:</b>	<b>Mr Rodney Sinclair</b> <i>Office not filled</i>	<b>Vice-Chair &amp; Treasurer</b>
<b>Deanery Synod Representative:</b>	<i>Office not filled</i>	
<b>Elected Members:</b>	<b>Mr Stephen Hall Mrs Rachel Barritt Mr Jake Locke Mrs Faye Henchy</b>	<b>PCC Secretary Electoral Roll Officer</b>

#### C. General:

<b>Patrons:</b> (The right of presentation is exercised jointly.)	<b>The Wadenhoe Trust Peterborough Diocesan Board of Patronage The Society of Merchant Venturers The Bishop of Peterborough</b>
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<b>Bankers:</b>	<b>Barclays Bank plc</b> Oundle Branch, 2 New Street, Oundle PE8 4EB
<b>Investment Funds:</b>	<b>CBF Church of England Deposit Fund</b> Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
<b>Legal Advisers:</b>	<b>Hunt &amp; Coombs Solicitors</b> 4 New Street, Oundle PE8 4ED
<b>Insurance Company:</b>	<b>Ecclesiastical Insurance</b> Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	<b>Mr Andrew Kemp</b> 3 St Andrews Lane, Titchmarsh, Kettering NN14 3DN
<b>Church Architect:</b>	<b>Mr Jeremy Lander MA(Cantab) Dip Arch RIBA AABC</b> 77 North Street, Burwell Cambs CB25 0BB

## **2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

St Michael and All Angels is a church which is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) duly constituted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended, and the Church Representation Rules.

The Church is registered with Code 628316 in the Diocese of Peterborough in the Parish of Wadenhoe and the Parish is registered with Code 280316.

The Parochial Church Council of Wadenhoe is a charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 and is currently excepted by Statutory Instrument from registering with the Charity Commission

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (the Rector), the Churchwarden and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial instruction into the workings of the PCC.

It was agreed by the PCC that there was an insufficient number of members to warrant a Standing Committee.

### **3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

St Michael and All Angels' PCC has the duty and responsibility with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Brian Withington, to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish and to cooperate in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

This responsibility is reinforced by our commitment to the Mission Statement, namely, *"The Church exists to make the Gospel relevant to everyday life and to serve the whole community by strengthening the fellowship, practice and heritage of Christian life and worship"*.

The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Michael and All Angels in Wadenhoe and also the responsibility for a wide range of matters affecting the Parish, which include compliance with legislation in regard to Health and Safety, Fire Risk and Safety, Disability Access, Data Protection and also in the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Appropriate training is provided, when necessary.

**Matters for Attention in 2021.** The following maintenance matters which were raised in the Quinquennial Report are in the final stages of completion:

- The re-leading of the poor condition windows
- Replacement of window guards.

In addition, if necessary, replace the apparent broken/missing tile on the roof of the Bell Tower and repair the wire mesh covering one of the windows in the room housing the bells to prevent birds from nesting in it.

### **4. CLOSURE OF CHURCH FOR SERVICES.**

Following Government guidance to reduce the risk of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) infection, the Archbishops requested all churches to close with effect from 27.03.2020. The church has been closed for public worship since that date and Services have not been held in the church. Burial Services have been held at the graveside.

While the lockdown of churches has been lifted from time to time for certain activities, subject to stringent Covid-19 conditions, the PCC considered whether to open the church for public worship, when possible, but decided against doing so. The matter of opening the church again for public worship will be reconsidered early in 2021 when hopefully the Covid-19 infection rate will have been eradicated or at least severely reduced.

### **5. CHURCH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS**

Wadenhoe Church has been closed for live services since March 2020. However, Services were held and conducted online using the 'Go to Meeting' or 'Zoom' applications. This has been a great success. Our thanks to Stephen Barber, the Church Warden of St Mary the Virgin, Titchmarsh, for managing the online Services for the Seven Churches Benefice.

## **6. PARISH SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES.**

Parish activities are well supported, co-ordinated and carried out by regular churchgoers as well as several villagers of other faiths and non-churchgoers. However, with the church being closed for the past nine months, very few activities have been able to take place. Nevertheless, the PCC thanks the following for their help in supporting the church at this difficult time which activities were undertaken within Covid-19 restrictions/conditions.

**Churchyard – Grass Cutting (Stephen Hall).** A number of volunteers offered their services and have since mowed the grass. Help is always much needed and appreciated.

**Pink Sheet Newsletter distribution (Rachel Barritt).** Copies of the Pink Sheet newsletter were delivered to all the households in the village.

## **7. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Church attendance.** Normally, Wadenhoe has two services per month with a Holy Communion service on each 2nd Sunday at 10.30 am and an Evensong service on each 4th Sunday at 6.00 pm. The average Church attendance at the morning Communion service is usually 15 adults, but this number can be much larger at Easter and Christmas festivals. Average Evensong attendance is usually some 8 adults. This year it has not been possible to calculate the average attendance numbers as the church has been closed for the past nine months but the average attendance would probably have been much the same as before.

### **Services during the year.**

<b>Palm Sunday:</b>	Church closed. Service not held.
<b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service:</b>	Church closed. Service not held
<b>Remembrance Day Sunday Service:</b> <i>(At War Memorial)</i>	08 November 2020
<b>Crib Service:</b>	Church closed. Service not held.
<b>Weddings:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Marriage Blessing after Civil Marriage:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Baptisms:</b>	<i>None</i>

<b>Graveside Funeral Services &amp; Burials:</b>	23 April 2020 – David Alan Barratt 14 August 2020 - Patrecia Anne Sinclair
<b>Funeral Service/Cremation:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Confirmations:</b>	<i>None</i>

**Electoral Roll.** When the Church Electoral Roll was revised early in 2020, there were 21 parishioners on the Roll, two of whom were resident outside the parish. During the year there were two deaths reducing to 19 the number of parishioners on the Roll.

**Wadenhoe Church Website** (<https://www.wadenhoechurch.org.uk>) (**Faye Henchy**). The website is linked to the “A Church Near You” Website’ (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16673/>) and to the Oundle Deanery Website (<https://www.oundledeanery.wordpress.com/>). Many thanks to Faye for continuing to maintain the sites.

**Online and Text Donations (Faye Henchy).** To help with fundraising for the preservation and maintenance of the ancient building, the Church is registered to receive ‘Online’ and ‘Text’ Donations.

- To make an online donation, visit - [www.easydonate.org/WADEN](http://www.easydonate.org/WADEN)
- To make a £5 Text donation, - Text: **WADEN** to **70970**

## **8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

**Church Representation Rules 2020.** The Rules have been completely redrafted and replace the old Rules entirely from 01 January 2020. They have been made less burdensome, many provisions have been streamlined and parishes have been given greater flexibility over their constitutional arrangements so that they could operate in a way that was more effective for the mission, life and work of the church. For information, the following are some of the new Rules which are considered to be more pertinent for our purposes:

- **Church Electoral Roll.** Names no longer need to be removed from the roll during the course of the year: they only need to be added. Rolls may be published electronically instead of in paper form.
- **Annual Meeting.** The Annual Parochial Church Meeting must now be held between 01 January and 31 May (rather than 30 April). The annual meeting no longer appoints sidesmen; they are now appointed by the PCC.
- **PCC Meetings.** The Rules no longer specify a minimum number of PCC meetings which must be held each year. Instead, the PCC is required to hold a sufficient number of meetings to enable the efficient transaction of its business. The Rules also now expressly state who is entitled to attend a PCC meeting. A PCC may invite other persons to attend its meetings as it wishes.

- **PCCs – Conduct of Business by Correspondence.** Provision is now made in the Rules to enable PCCs to conduct business by correspondence (whether on paper or by email) where the chair of the PCC decides that particular business can properly be conducted in that way.
- **Electronic Communication.** The Rules now make comprehensive provision for the use of communication by email. Providing an email address is optional but, if one is provided, any communication under the Rules may be sent to that email address. An email will satisfy any requirements in the Rules for a communication to be in writing.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).** All the matters that required ratification/approval at the proposed 2020 APCM (2019 Annual Report, Accounts, etc.) were approved by the PCC at a meeting held on 25 February 2020. It was not possible to hold the APCM in 2020 to approve the matters due to Covid-19 restrictions. Many other parishes were in the same position of not being able to hold APCMs.

In the circumstances and in the light of the national situation relating to Covid-19, the Bishop signed an Order, for 2020, that:

- Permitted parishes to extend the time for holding a meeting to choose churchwardens to 31 May 2021 (instead of 31 May 2020). Similarly, the period for holding an annual meeting of parishioners (APCM) has been extended to 31 May 2021.
- Extended the term of office of churchwardens who were chosen in 2019 to continue to hold office until 31 August 2021 unless their successors are admitted to office before that.
- Extended the term of office of representatives of the laity on parochial church councils. A representative (member of the PCC) whose term of office was due to expire in 2020 will expire but, where the APCM is deferred under the provisions of the Bishop's Order, their term of office will expire only at the end of the deferred APCM.
- While the Order extends the terms of office of churchwardens and PCC members, effectively by a full year, it does not mean they have to serve an extra year if they do not wish to. Resignation is an option and the PCC can then co-op extra members, if needed, or appoint a deputy or acting warden to serve until next year's elections.

It is probable that the postponed Wadenhoe APCM to approve the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts, etc., will now be held in the Spring of 2021 at the same time as the APCM to approve the 2020 Annual Report and Accounts, Covid-19 permitting.

**Fabric (Rodney Sinclair/Stephen Hall).** The church building and churchyard generally are in reasonable condition. The new Churchyard's dilapidated fence was replaced at a cost of £2,289.36.

**Fire Safety Risk Assessment Policy, Health and Safety Policy and the Disability Access Audit Check.** These policies have been reviewed and found to comply with statutory requirements.

**Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.** The full Policy was updated and approved by the PCC on 29 September 2020. The PCC complies with both the duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the church community and the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

**General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR).** The PCC is committed to respecting the privacy of all those for whom it holds personal information which is kept and processed in accordance with GDPR legislation. Personal information is always treated as confidential and, in compliance with our legal responsibilities, will only be shared for lawful purposes associated, but not restricted, to church business.

**Testing of Memorials in Churchyard.** The PCC agreed to sign up to the procedures laid down in the Chancellor’s Practice Direction Form 2012/01 whereby the need to apply for a Faculty is not required before testing of memorials is carried out. The memorials were tested in 2020 but none were found to be at risk of failing.

**Harvest Supper.** This event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## **9. CHURCH PROPERTY REGISTER**

The lists of Church properties, goods and ornaments scheduled in the Church Property Register have been checked and corrections or additions noted and are certified as correct to the best of our knowledge. The check was carried out on 24 December 2020 by the Churchwarden. Two new fire extinguishers were acquired at a cost of £162.00 to replace a damaged water extinguisher and a CO2 extinguisher past its serviceable use.

## **10. CHURCH LOG BOOK**

A full detailed inspection of the fabric was carried out on 24 December 2020 by the Churchwarden. The inspection of the bells room in the Tower revealed that a tile on the Tower’s roof appears to have been dislodged/broken and the matter would need to be investigated and attended to. Also the wire mesh covering one of the unglazed louvered windows in the bells room was damaged enabling pigeons to gain access to the room and nest in the roof. The wire mesh would need to be repaired and the room cleaned to clear the bird droppings. Nothing else untoward was found other than the matters already in hand to replace some window guards and to re-lead some poor condition windows.

A note has been made in the Log Book relating to the annual service of the fire extinguishers. The matters listed above (Chapter 8 - Review of the Year – Fabric) and attended to during the year have also been noted in the Log Book.

## **11. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Independent Examiner.** The Church Accounts for 2020 have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Kemp and approved by the PCC.

**Planned Giving/Collections.** Receipts from the Diocesan Planned Giving Scheme through banker's orders and the Parish Giving Scheme through direct debits amounted to £3,390 an increase of some £430 from that received in 2019. As the church has been closed, income from collections at services, donations and gift aid, amounted to £1,330 some £3,200 less than that received in 2019.

**Parish Share.** The cost of maintaining the worship, ministry and mission of the Church in the Diocese is shared by its parishes and congregations. The sum that the parishes in the Benefice have to find is calculated according to a formula that is based mainly on the ministry establishment (75% weighting) and the average Sunday attendance figures (25% weighting) together with any Deanery adjustment that has been made (at present £1,000). The Parish Share is a major cost to the parish and Wadenhoe's share of this charge in 2020 (£6,795) was paid in full. Its share in 2021 will be unchanged at £6,795.

**Parochial Fees.** The sum of £739 was received in statutory parochial fees in 2020 from two funerals (£610) and the introduction of a memorial stone (£129).

**Charitable Giving.** The sum of £40 was given to the Royal British Legion, part of which covered the cost of the wreath provided for Remembrance Sunday, and £50 was given to the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.

**Insurance.** The building and contents insurance premium for 2020 was £1,353. The renewal premium for 2021 will be £1,356 which includes Insurance Premium Tax of £145. The policy premium benefits from a 10% discount based on a commitment to a 3-year Long Term Undertaking and Rate Stability Agreement.

The loss limit for the building and contents is set at £8,680,000 which is higher than the valuation figure (£5,061,000) to protect against any unexpected changes in building costs over and above inflation. Nevertheless, the premium is based upon the value of the property insured so there is no additional cost for this increased protection.

**Donations Received.** We were grateful to receive £107 (£1,150 in 2019).

### **Fund Raising.**

- **Ride and Stride Event.** Thanks to Daphne and Stephen Hall for taking part in this event on 12 September 2020 raising £70 in sponsorship for their efforts. This will be divided equally between the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and the PCC. Despite things being very different this year, the church was visited by 36 cyclists/walkers and the weather was lovely and sunny. This was the same number of visitors as in 2019.

- **Christmas Cards.** Thanks to Faye Henchy for arranging for the production of Christmas Cards for sale in aid of Church funds. Sales to date have exceeded the cost of the cards (£142). Also thanks to John Wythe for providing the photograph of the church used on the cards.

**Financial Results Summary.** As detailed in the financial statements, total income in 2020 for the combined Ordinary and Restricted Accounts amounted to £5,997 and total expenditure to £11,948. The net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £5,951. The main reason for this deficit was that as the church was closed for nine months, income from other sources was reduced considerably, e.g., collections, etc.

<u>Ordinary Funds (Unrestricted Funds)</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Receipts:</b> <i>(Collections, Gift Aid, Donations, Statutory Fees (Funerals, etc.))</i>	<b>£ 5,903</b>	£ 10,148
<b>LESS: Payments:</b> <i>(Day-to-day running expenses – Parish Share, Insurance, Electricity, etc.)</i>	<b>-£ 9,658</b>	-£ 11,323
<b>Net Totals</b>	<b>-£ 3,755</b>	<b>-£ 1,175</b>
	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Deficit</i>
<u>Fabric Funds (Restricted Funds)</u>		
<b>Receipts:</b> <i>(Donations, CBF Interest)</i>	<b>£ 93</b>	£ 48
<b>LESS: Payments:</b> <i>(New Churchyard Fence repair)</i>	<b>-£ 2,289</b>	Nil
<b>Net Totals</b>	<b>-£ 2,196</b>	£ 48
	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
<b>Combined Net Overall Result for Ordinary and Fabric Funds</b>	<b>-£ 5,951</b>	<b>-£ 1,127</b>
	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Deficit</i>

**Cash in Bank/CBF Funds at 31 December 2020.**

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Balances</u>	
<b>Ordinary Funds:</b>		
Current Account	£ 2,115.12	
CBF Deposit Fund	£ 193.63	<b>£ 2,308.75</b>
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>		
Current Account No. 2 Account	£ 4,704.92	
CBF Fabric Fund	£ 10,170.38	
Business Saver Account	£ 0.02	<b>£14,875.32</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£17,184.07</b>

**Reserves Fund Policy.** It is the policy of this church to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs. It is also the policy to hold an amount for building works arising out of the Quinquennial inspection and in addition a sum of £5,000 for unforeseen emergency building works. At the end of the financial year, the PCC will consider how any funds remaining will be used after allowing for these provisions. This policy will be reviewed annually.

**Items forming part of the Reserves Fund:**

**Total Cash in Bank/CBF Funds at 31 December 2020** **£17,180**

**LESS:**

•	Three months General Running Costs:	-£ 3,000	
•	Unforeseen Emergency Building Works:	-£ 5,000	
•	Quinquennial Building Works still to be attended to (costs estimated by Architect):		
	- Windows – Re-leading Repairs/New Guards (work already authorised):	-£ 1,000	
	- Other Repairs still to be authorised (Repairs to plaster ceilings of the porch and chancel, churchyard path, boundary wall. Replace heating units):	-£ 10,000	
•	Tower roof repair	-£ 100	
			<b>-£19,100</b>

<b>Net Total Funds remaining after allowing for Reserves:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<i>(Reserve requirements exceed funds available)</i>	

**Approved by the PCC on 09 February 2021 and signed by the Revd Canon Brian Withington**

**VIEW OF THE CHANCEL**  
**WITH THE PURPLE FRONTAL COVERING THE ALTAR.**



**The symbolism of the Purple Frontal covering the Altar  
is of Penitence and Preparation.**  
**The church's liturgical colour of Purple is used from Ash Wednesday  
throughout Lent as the church prepares for Easter.**  
**Purple is also the colour for Advent leading up to Christmas,  
another period of preparation.**

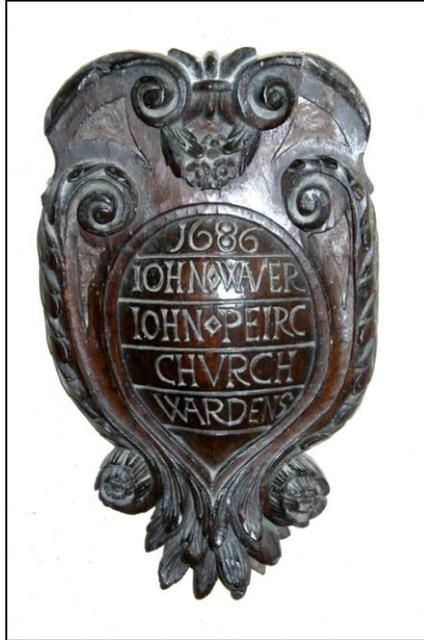
**13<sup>th</sup> CENTURY STONE FONT**  
**WITH WOODEN FONT COVER**



**The Font consists of a circular bowl ornamented at the top with lunettes, dogtooth and masks in relief set vertically on the face of the cylinder. The lower edge is moulded and the whole is set on an octagonal stone base.**

**The Font's cone shaped wooden cover has an octagonal base with moulded ribs enclosing flat panels. Each rib is decorated with crockets and rising from each of the eight angles to the neck and finial.**

**WOODEN WALL MEMORIAL PLAQUE**



**In memory of two Churchwardens  
John Wayer and John Peirc  
1686**