

St Michael and All Angels Church



Annual Report 2021

**Wadenhoe
Parochial Church Council**

St Michael and All Angels Church, Wadenhoe

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021

1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Michael and All Angels Church stands on an ancient site at the top of a hill, 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

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.

A. Address for correspondence:

PCC Secretary
Manor Farm
Wadenhoe
Peterborough PE8 5SX

B. PCC Members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved:

Incumbent:	The Revd Canon Brian Withington <i>Position vacant – Interregnum</i>	Chair <i>(Until 30/09/2021 – Retired)</i>
Churchwarden 1:	Mr Rodney Sinclair	Vice-Chair & Treasurer
Churchwarden 2:	<i>Office not filled</i>	
Deanery Synod Representative:	<i>Office not filled</i>	
Elected Members:	Mr Stephen Hall Mrs Rachel Barritt Mr Jake Locke Mrs Faye Henchy Mrs Andra Van Hasselt	PCC Secretary Electoral Roll Officer <i>(Until 09/05/2021)</i> <i>(Until 09/05/2021)</i> Electoral Roll Office <i>(From 09/05/2021)</i> <i>(From 12/06/2021)</i>

C. General:

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

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

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.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Michael and All Angels' PCC has the duty and responsibility with an incumbent 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 the 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 maintenance matters raised in the 2016 Quinquennial Report regarding the re-leading of the poor condition windows and the replacement of window guards are in the final stages of completion. In addition, the damaged wire mesh covering one of the windows in the room housing the bells to prevent birds from nesting in it has been repaired.

In October 2021, the Church Architect carried out the Quinquennial Inspection of the church and submitted his report. No major problems with the church fabric were found. Some maintenance matters have been highlighted requiring attention over the next two to five years.

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 27th March 2020. The church had been closed for public worship since that date until May 2021. Burial Services had been held at the graveside. The first service held in the church when the lockdowns were lifted was an Evensong Service on 9th May 2021. This was followed by an Annual Parochial Church Meeting covering both 2019 and 2020 years.

5. CHURCH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS

While Wadenhoe Church had been closed for live services since March 2020, Benefice Services were held and conducted online using the 'Go to Meeting' or 'Zoom' applications. This had been a great success and are still ongoing being held twice a month.

6. PARISH SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES.

Parish activities are usually 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 from March 2020 until 9th May 2021, very few activities could 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.

Sidespersons. All members of the PCC.

Lessons Schedules. The Churchwarden liaises with the officiating minister and acts as principal lesson reader but whenever possible others from the congregation are encouraged to read.

Sacristan's and Verger's Duties (*No one appointed*). Preparation of the church for all services and briefing the minister is normally carried out by the Churchwarden and members of the PCC.

Bell Ringing (Arthur Dicks). Benefice bell-ringers support the Wadenhoe bell ringing team. Bell ringing practice takes place on Wednesdays.

Eucharist Assistant. Mrs Yvonne Gunn.

Cleaning. Currently members of the PCC clean the church. Many thanks to all those who clean the brass in the Church from time-to-time. It would be appreciated if volunteers would come forward to help with the cleaning of the church twice a month, i.e. before services, at a time to suit their convenience. This will involve dusting, sweeping the floor and vacuum cleaning the sanctuary carpet.

Daily locking and unlocking of the Church. In the past, the church had always been unlocked during the day. However, to reduce the risk of the spread of the Covid infection, the church has not been unlocked during the day since March 2020. Nevertheless, there is a strong feeling within the PCC that once the Covid infection threat has passed the church should again be opened every day. Not only is the church a spiritual place where passers-by can pray in peace, but it is also one of the tourist attractions of Wadenhoe village.

Organists. Jean Wignell, Sofia Line and Vincent Davy play the organ for the regular Holy Communion and Evensong church services and for other special occasions. Our thanks to them.

Churchyard – Grass Cutting (Stephen Hall). Thanks to Stephen and the other volunteers for mowing the difficult uneven sloping ground of the churchyard. Help is always needed and much appreciated.

Pink Sheet Newsletter distribution (Rodney Sinclair). 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 14/15 adults, but this number can be much larger at Easter and Christmas festivals. Average Evensong attendance is usually some 8 adults. Since services started again this year in May the average attendance has been much the same as before.

Services during the year.

Palm Sunday:	Church closed. Service not held.
Harvest Thanksgiving Service:	12 th September 2021
Remembrance Day Sunday Service: (At War Memorial)	14 th November 2021
Crib Service:	Service cancelled (Omicron virus threat).
Weddings:	14 th August 2021 Hugh William Ford and Lottie Raine Smith 
Marriage Blessing after Civil Marriage:	 23 rd July 2021 Daniel and Olivia Ellis
Baptisms:	11 th July 2021. Cherry Humberstone Garley.
Funeral Services & Burials:	<i>None</i>
Funeral Service/Cremation:	<i>None</i>
Confirmations:	<i>None</i>

Special Church Services

- **Sunrise Service** held at 6.30 am in the churchyard on Easter Sunday (4th April 2021). Some 22 people attended the service.
- **Patronal Festival Service.** A special Evensong Service to celebrate the Michaelmas/Feast of St Michael and All Angels was held on 26th September 2021.

Tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore



The centenarian Captain Sir Tom Moore's funeral ceremony took place on 27th February 2021. He had raised more than £32 million for NHS Charities during the Covid-19 crisis, by walking 100 laps of his patio garden before his 100th birthday in 2020. As a mark of respect, there was a flypast by a Second World War C-47 Dakota aircraft which flew low over Wadenhoe at 11.50 am on the day of his funeral. As a mark of respect, at 12 Noon on that day, bell ringing in churches across the country took place with Sue Groom tolling the church's tenor bell 100 times as Wadenhoe's tribute.

Tribute to His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

(10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021)



A giant of a gentleman who devoted his life to service, duty and support to the Queen and country. As a mark of respect and to honour his memory, bell ringing in churches across the country took place with Sue Groom tolling the church's tenor bell 99 times at 12 Noon on Saturday, 10th April 2021.

Electoral Roll. When the Church Electoral Roll was revised early in 2021, there were 18 parishioners on the Roll, five of whom were resident outside the parish. During the year a further name was added bringing to 19 the number of parishioners on the Roll, six of whom are non-resident.

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 maintaining the church website.

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
- To make a £5 Text donation, - Text: **WADEN** to **70970**

Fund Raising - Ride and Stride Event. Thanks to Daphne and Stephen Hall for taking part in this event on 11th September 2021 raising £70 in sponsorship for their efforts. This will be divided equally between the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and the PCC. The Church was visited by 19 cyclists/walkers, which is down on the year before when there were 36 cyclists/walkers.

8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Revd Canon Brian Withington. Brian retired as Rector at the end of September after having spent nearly four years taking care of our spiritual needs. We thank him for all he has done for our parish and wish both he and Jacky a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Appointment of new Rector. To fill the vacancy created when the Revd Canon Brian Withington retired, an advertisement inviting applications for the position was published in the Church Times on 15th October 2021 with a view to interviewing applicants in February 2022.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM). All the matters that required ratification/approval for the postponed 2020 APCM (2019 Annual Report, Accounts, etc.) and the 2021 APCM (2020 Annual Report, Accounts, etc.) were approved by the PCC at a meeting held on 9th May 2021. It was not possible to hold an APCM in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Renewal of Electricity Supply Contract. Quotations were sought by EnergiSave from SSE, Gazprom and Scottish Power for the renewal of the church’s electrical supply contract which was due to expire on 30th November 2021. As the quote received from SSE had been the more competitive, the PCC agreed to accept their quotation to renew the contract to supply the church’s electricity for a further period of three years from 1st December 2021.

Church Fabric (Rodney Sinclair/Stephen Hall). The church building and churchyard generally are in reasonable condition.

Churchyard Trees. As a safety measure, it was necessary to employ a tree surgeon to remove the dead wood from the three old and large Sycamore trees along the West boundary wall of the churchyard at a cost of £1,740.

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 1st October 2021. 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 memorials were tested in 2021 and 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 22nd December 2021 by the Churchwarden..

10. CHURCH LOG BOOK

The Quinquennial Inspection of the fabric of the Church was carried out on 11th October 2021 and a full Report in this connection has been received from the Architect. In view of this inspection, a full detailed examination of the fabric was not again carried out. Instead a brief overview inspection was carried out on 22nd December 2021 by the Churchwarden. Nothing untoward was found.

A note has been made in the Log Book relating to the annual service of the fire extinguishers.

11. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Independent Examiner. The Church Accounts for 2021 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 £3,320 some £70 less than that received in 2020. Receipts from collections at services, donations and gift aid, amounted to £2,750 some £1,370 more than that received in 2020 mainly because services were being held again from May.

Parochial Fees. The sum of £705 was received in statutory parochial fees in 2021 from a wedding and four applications for the introduction of memorial stones in the churchyard.

Charitable Giving. The sum of £50 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.

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 Diocesan ministry establishment (75% weighting) and the average Sunday attendance figures (25% weighting) together with any Deanery adjustment that has been made (at present a benefit of £1,000 for Wadenhoe). The Parish Share is a major cost to the parish and Wadenhoe's share of this charge in 2021 amounted to £6,795. Regrettably, Wadenhoe's share was not paid in full. The PCC decided to withhold the sum of £3,545 as receipts during the year were insufficient to fully cover the total Parish Share cost. Every effort will be made to pay the share in full in 2022 which is unchanged at £6,795.

Insurance. The building and contents insurance premium for 2021 was £1,356. The renewal premium for 2022 will be £1,392 which includes Insurance Premium Tax of £149. The policy premium benefits from a 10% discount based on a commitment to a 3-year Long Term Undertaking and Rate Stability Agreement.

Financial Results Summary. As detailed in the financial statements, total receipts in 2021 for the combined Unrestricted and Restricted Accounts amounted to £7,030 and total expenditure to £9,230. The net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income (deficit) of £2,200. The main reason for this deficit was that, as the church was closed for four months, receipts from collections and other sources were reduced considerably and were insufficient to meet normal month-to-month commitments.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts: <i>(Collections, Gift Aid, Donations, Statutory Fees, Weddings, etc.)</i>		£ 7,026	£ 5,903
LESS: Payments: <i>(Day-to-day running expenses – Parish Share, Insurance, Electricity, etc.)</i>		-£ 8,530	-£ 9,658
Net Totals		-£ 1,504	-£ 3,755
		<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Deficit</i>
	<u>Restricted (Fabric) Funds</u>		
Receipts: <i>(Donations, CBF Interest)</i>		£ 5	£ 93
LESS: Payments: <i>(Quinquennial Fee)</i>		-£ 699	-£ 2,289
Net Totals		-£ 694	-£ 2,196
		<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Deficit</i>
	<u>Combined Net Overall Results</u>		
		-£ 2,198	-£ 5,951
		<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Deficit</i>

Assets/Cash Funds at 31 December 2021.

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Balances</u>		
Unrestricted Funds:			
Current Account	£ 610.29		
CBF Deposit Fund	£ 193.73	£ 804.02	
Restricted Funds:			
Current Account No. 2 Account	£ 4,005.92		
CBF Fabric Fund	£ 10,175.68		
Business Saver Account	£ 0.02	£14,181.62	
Total		£14,985.64	

12. 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 2021	£14,985
LESS:	
• Three months General Running Costs:	-£ 3,000
• Unforeseen Emergency Building Works:	-£ 5,000
• Quinquennial Building Works for attention within the next two years (<i>costs estimated by Architect</i>):	-£ 5,500 -£13,500
Net Total Funds remaining after allowing for Reserves:	£ 1,485

The PCC decided to retain the remaining funds not held in Reserves.

Approved by the PCC on 07 March 2022

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

According to the use of The Church of England

THE CHURCH'S CALENDAR is planned to remind us of the great events of the gospel story, out of which Christian worship springs. Thus *Sunday* is the weekly memorial of the resurrection of our Lord.

For every Sunday and the chief commemorations in the year a Collect, Epistle and Gospel are provided. The Collect often sets the note of the day's worship. The Gospels and Epistles are respectively from the Gospel story and usually from the pastoral messages of Apostles to their people.

The Psalms are read through in daily portions every month at Morning and Evening Prayer, but special Psalms are selected for congregational use on Sundays, and 'proper' Psalms are set for the chief festivals. The lectionary provides for the orderly reading of the Bible morning and evening throughout the year, with special lessons for Sundays.

The sequence of the Church's year is as follows:

Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ's first coming and warns us that he will come again to judge quick and dead.

Christmas, the anniversary of our Lord's birth, leads to

Epiphany (January 6) which, with the following Sundays, speaks of the glory of God revealed in Christ.

Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima, so-called because they precede Easter by approximately seventy, sixty and fifty days, bridge the interval between the Epiphany season and

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, and lasts, excluding Sundays, for forty days, recalling the forty days of our Lord's temptation. It is a season of penitence and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Fifth Sunday in Lent, called Passion Sunday, foreshadows

Holy Week which, opening on Palm Sunday, leads our thoughts through our Lord's Passion, from his entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to his Crucifixion on Good Friday, and his lying in the grave on Easter Eve.

Easter, the festival of the Resurrection, is kept for eight days, the 'octave'. Its date varies according to the date of the Passover full moon. The season of rejoicing extends through the forty days after Easter to

Ascension Day, when Christ is proclaimed the Lord of all life; and then to

Whitsunday, when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the Church. The series ends with

Trinity Sunday, which declares the fullness of the Christian revelation of God. The following Sundays to Advent are named 'after Trinity'.

Holy Days and Saints' Days. Other events in our Lord's life are also commemorated during the year. Saints are remembered on special days; and on November 1, All Saints Day, the list closes with the vision of the Church triumphant.

Rogation Days. On the Sunday before Ascension Day and the three following days we pray God to bless man's labour to produce the necessities of life.

Ember Days. At the turn of each season three days are fixed for prayer on behalf of the Christian ministry. Ordinations usually take place at these times.

© *The Shorter Book of Common Prayer*

Stained Glass Chancel Window Dedicated to

SAINT ANNE

St Anne is depicted, in the window, with her daughter, **Mary**, who is portrayed both as an infant and as a young girl. **Mary's** destiny was to be the mother of **Jesus**, the Son of God.



According to Christian Apocryphal tradition, Saint Anne (or Anna) was the mother of Mary and the maternal grandmother of Jesus. Mary's mother and father are not mentioned in the Bible at all. In writings, Anne's name and that of her husband, Joachim, come only from the Apocryphal New Testament in which the Gospel of the Birth of Mary contained in the Protevangelion (or first Gospel) of James, written in the 2nd Century, seems to be the earliest mention of Mary's parentage.

According to these non-canonical sources, Anne was born in Bethlehem in Judaea. She married Joachim and, although they shared a wealthy and devout life at Nazareth, they were childless. Distressed by her childless state, Anne solemnly promised to God that, if given a child, she would dedicate it to the Lord's service. Both Anne and Joachim received the vision of an angel who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child. Anne conceived and on the birth of their daughter, she named her, Mary. When the child was three years old, Anne and Joachim, in fulfilment of her divine promise to God, brought Mary to the Temple of Jerusalem, where they left her to be brought up there.

The Patronal Festival for Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated on 26th July.

Saint Anne is patroness of unmarried women, housewives, women in labour or who want to be pregnant, grandmothers, mothers and educators. Saint Anne is also said to be a patron saint of sailors and a protector from storms

In remembrance of fifty years worship in the Church, the four stained glass lancet windows in the Chancel were the gift of Anne Brittle, head mistress of Wadenhoe School for nearly forty years (1873 – 1912). The face of St Anne, as portrayed in the window, is said to be a likeness of Anne Brittle's face.