

The Church of St Mary, Blakesley cum Woodend
Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2007

Administrative Information

The Parish of Blakesley cum Woodend is part of the Lambfold Benefice, which is in the Towcester Deanery, and its parsonage house is in Blakesley.

The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 17th April 2007 until the date this Report was approved are:

<i>Rector</i>	The Revd John Hall (Chairman)
<i>Wardens</i>	Mrs Mary Barnett (Vice-chairman) Mr Barrie Osborne
<i>Elected Members</i>	The Hon Mrs Gillian Foster Mrs Kim Hopewell Mr Derek Lowe Mrs Julie Mintram (Secretary) Mrs Dorothy Osborne (Deanery Synod Rep) Mr Paul Parsons Mrs Pat Paterson (Electoral Roll Officer) Mrs Lydia Pratley Mr Oliver Prentice Mrs Jilly Russell
<i>Treasurer</i>	The Hon Mrs Gillian Foster
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	Mr Peter Godfrey FCA

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has a responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, the Revd John Hall, in promoting the whole mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and churchyard as a house of prayer and centre of mission.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

There are 50 parishioners on the church electoral roll, two of whom are non-resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance was 21 adults and 5 children, but this number

increased at the major festivals with a record number of 476 people attending for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There were 6 baptisms, 3 marriages and 3 funerals during the year.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met four times during the year. The main issues to be noted this year were:

Chancel heating

Repairs to and renewal of the heating in the Chancel area had been carried out.

Dedication of servery area and outside arch with lantern

Outstanding works in relation to the newly-installed servery area were completed and a service of dedication, attended by Bishop Frank, was held on 20th May 2007. This service also incorporated the dedication of the wrought-iron arch with lantern, which had been installed at the gate in memory of Mrs Sheila Sheppard.

Floor grates

It was agreed that the issue of the unstable floor grates should be addressed and it was proposed that work to recast and relay the grates, together with necessary remedial work to the supportive and surrounding areas, be commissioned during the forthcoming year.

Other fabric issues

General works of maintenance involving testing of the lightning conductor, some minor re-pointing and repairs to guttering and leading were undertaken.

Mission Supper

A second very successful Mission Supper was held on 15th May at Adstone, the emphasis this year being to thank those people who had helped in the Benefice's churches on a regular basis yet were on the "fringe" of the Church.

Mission Matters

Along with other parishes in the Benefice, we took part in the Diocesan "Mission Matters" initiative with courses being attended during the months of September and October.

Bellringing

A small, but loyal, band of ringers formed at the end of 2005 now ring the bells regularly for our church services and hold regular practice sessions in the church during the summer months, winter practices being held at the neighbouring church of St Michael in Bradden.

Pastoral reorganisation

The new Pastoral Order in relation to the Lambfold Benefice and the change of the name of our parish to Blakesley cum Woodend came into effect on 1st November 2007.

Financial Review

Total receipts during the year were £40,924.99 and are detailed in the financial statements. Our main outgoings were the Parish Share, £11,367, which was fully paid and the final part of the Servery Project which included payments to Colson and Loring builders, of £18,036.36 and Bruce Deacon architect, of £1,829.35.

It is seen in the financial statements that the church running costs for 2006 was £16,484, and for 2007 was £18,815 which for the year averaging £1,560 per month. The current increases in energy costs and the Diocesan Quota would suggest the current years running rate to be in excess of £20,500 equating to £1,720 per month.

Donations were received from:	The Historic Churches Trust	£1,000
	The Garfield Weston Trust	£5,000
	Robert Prentice (Car Boot Sales)	£737

Annual Fund Raising - £3,415 This is the total from four events - the Fête with sponsorship and advertising, the Open Gardens, 100 Club and Garden Party.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to approximately six months' unrestricted payments, to cover normal future commitments.

On 31st December 2007 the balance on the income account for the Fabric Fund (restricted) is £8,667.15 for future fabric maintenance. Full details are seen in the financial statement. It is our policy to invest our Capital Funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Approved by the PCC at their AGM on Tuesday, 22nd April 2007

Rector

PCC Secretary

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Treasurer