

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Farthingstone
Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2007

Administrative Information

The Parish of Farthingstone is part of the Lambfold Benefice (comprising the villages of Blakesley, Adstone Maidford Farthingstone and Litchborough), 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 12th March 2007 until the date of this Report was approved are:

<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	The Revd John Hall (Chairman)
<i>Wardens</i>	Mrs Rhona Church Mrs Betty Ore
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr John Church (Vice Chairman) Mrs Linda Mayne Mr Peter Mayne Mrs Sarah Roe (Secretary and Electoral Roll)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr Roy Batchelor

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 10 parishioners on the church electoral roll. The average weekly attendance was 10 adults, but this number increased at the major festivals with 20 people attending for services on Christmas Day and Easter Day. And 120 + attending the annual carol service in December. There were 3 baptisms and 3 weddings 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:

Fabric of Building

Minor restorative and maintenance work have been carried out to keep the church in good order. The church has been examined to cover our liabilities regarding both asbestos pollution and fire prevention.

Bell Ringing

A team of regular bellringers has been established, and a folk from the community of Farthingstone have been encouraged to participate. General maintenance work has been carried out on the bells to facilitate this development.

Pastoral Reorganisation

The pastoral order legally creating the new benefice was approved in by the Church Commissioners in October 2007 and came into effect on the 1st November 2007. A date for the induction and installation of the first rector is scheduled for 2008.

Open Church Policy

The PCC has discussed the implications of an 'unlocked church' policy . It is assessing the how to make the vestry secure and thus enable this policy.

Mission and Evangelism

In cooperation with the other PCCs of the benefice a 'Thank You Supper' was organised during May and an evening course entitled Mission Matters was held in October.

Financial Review

A set of independently checked accounts have been presented which show an end of year capital balance of £11802.68. This marks an increase of capital balance of £5650 over the year this was largely due the generous legacy from the estate of Mr Bertram Bellingham, for the sum of £4000. And the success of the village lottery scheme with raised £1379.

All liabilities for the year were met in full, most notably the parish share of £2952 and insurance of £868.76.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a minimum balance of £3000 on unrestricted funds, to cover normal future expenses and immediate fabric necessities.

It is the policy of the PCC to invest our capital funds with National Westminster Bank.

*Report presented and accepted by the AGM of the PCC
On Monday 3rd March 2008.*

Signed:

Rector.....Secretary.....

Churchwarden.....Churchwarden

Treasurer.....