

**The Church of St. Martins, Litchborough [Lichborough]**  
**Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

#### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish of Lichborough 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 27th March 2007 are:

Priest-in-Charge The Revd. John Hall (Chairman)  
Wardens Mrs Jackie Ellis (Secretary)  
Mr Richard Ashby (Electoral Roll Officer)

Elected Members:

Mrs Sandy Aked-Walker  
Mr David Aked-Walker  
Mr John Guy (Vice-Chairman PCC & Fabric Trustee, Secretary/Treasurer of the Trust)  
Mrs Susan Guy (Sacristan)  
Mrs Juliet O'Neill  
Mr Matthew Rodhouse (Treasurer)

Ex Officio Member:

Mrs Patricia Sykes (Deanery Synod Rep)

Independent Examiner:

Mr Peter Godfrey FCA

Other Fabric Trustees:

Mr John Graves (Appointed by PCC & Chairman of the Trust)  
Ms Lucy Cavell-Northam (Appointed by the Parish Council)

#### **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 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\* [see Fabric Trust] for the Church and churchyard as a house of prayer and centre of mission.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

There were 32 people on the church electoral roll, two of whom were non-resident within the parish and a further 2 non-resident within the UK. The average weekly attendance was 13 adults and 2.5 children, but this number increased at the major festivals with 60 people attending for services at Christmas and Easter. There was 1 Wedding, no Baptism and one Funeral.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

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

### **Pastoral Reorganisation**

The parish of St Martin has been suspended since 1997. It has been confirmed that the legal process of the new pastoral order was now completed and the Church Commissioners confirmed that the provisions of the Pastoral Measure 1983 relating to the Pastoral Scheme for the creation of the Lambfold Benefice had been met. It was understood that the Revd. John Hall, currently Priest-in-Charge would be appointed Rector in the near future.

Following the P.C.C.'s decision in 2006 to update the Holy Communion service books used at St Martins, the new seasonal versions have been highly successful.

**Benefice Choir** - Several members of St Martins' congregation belong to the Benefice Choir which now stands at 30 members.

**Family Service** - Following the upturn in numbers at our family services in 2006, we have been disappointed in the decline in number of children attending during 2007. Numbers have returned to 2005 levels but those that do attend are still finding it enjoyable. There were fewer family services during 2007 as these coincided with other festivals, Rogation, Easter, etc. Our thanks again to Susan Guy and Christine Rodhouse who continue to lead the Family service.

**Links with Litchborough Baptist Chapel** - Our links with the Baptists have been retained during the year culminating in the Village Carol service hosted by St Martins with readers participating from both churches. The Baptists also joined our First Communion of Christmas service.

**Mission** - Members of St Martins joined other representatives from the Benefice at Tim Sledge's Mission Matters Course during October. Arising from this, there are several members of our congregation who expressed a wish to participate in a Virtual Prayer Group being set up within the Benefice and we pray this will flourish. The P.C.C. is also looking at ways to develop its mission strategy and has several ideas which we hope to progress in 2008.

We remain committed to keeping the Church open during the day to allow access to all and this is welcomed by our visitors. However, we cannot be complacent and we must remain vigilant following a spate of burglaries in nearby churches recently – particularly lead off roofs. There is close communication with local police who have recommended certain actions to prevent such thefts. The P.C.C. agreed that it would, if necessary, close the church during school holidays if it was thought vandalism was likely.

**Fundraising** - The Historic Churches Cycle Ride/Walk was particularly well supported. Over £640 was raised, the third highest amount in the county, of which half the total was returned to St Martins Fabric Trust.

Two new events were organised in addition to our annual Art and Craft Festival and Church Teas. An excellent French Evening on Bastille Day and a Christmas Fair, both highly successful, with the proceeds going to the Fabric Trust and plans to do similar events in 2008. Fame came to Litchborough when St Martins' Church teas featured in the Diocesan News, and later picked up by the Church Times. We believe our fundraising events reach out to the wider community and those who are not normally active members of the congregation.

**Bellringing** - St Martins has a team of seven ringers who ring the bells regularly for church services and meet for practice on Saturday mornings.

## **Fabric, Fittings & Churchyard**

The Fabric Trust was established in 1995 as a registered Charity for the restoration, preservation, maintenance, beautification and reconstruction of the church, its stained glass, its fixtures and fittings and its churchyard. The PCC has delegated these matters to its Trustees.

One trustee is appointed by the PCC from amongst its members; the second by the PCC from outside its own members, and the third by the Parish Council.

In 2007, the Trust's total income was £7,151.71p including amounts from the PCC totalling £2,969.84p and its expenditure totalled £12,272.79p including costs of £11,131.33p in relation to the new vestry.

Goods and Ornaments of the Church from Terrier and Inventory - Following the annual check, the of the Terrier and Inventory has been updated.

The regular work is the ongoing repair of the building, on the basis of the Church Architect's Quinquennial Reports.

**Reordering and repairs to the Vestry** - This work is now complete following the success in raising the necessary funds to cover the cost of connecting to the water and sewage services. Installation was completed in time for Christmas 2007.

**Chancel Roof** - This was an item flagged up by the 2004 Quinquennial Inspection that the PCC should monitor, as major work might become necessary in the near future. Monitoring has continued throughout the year but no work required at present.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total receipts during the year was £10,558.06p and are detailed in the financial statements. Our main outgoings were the Parish Share of £5,445.00 and payments to the Fabric Trust.

### **Giving to the Church**

The amount received through Covenants and Gift Aid was £6,908.42p.

### **Giving by the Church**

Included in the financial statements is an amount of grants made by the P.C.C to outside charities. It is the intention of the PCC to tithe to outside charities an amount based on the income received in addition to passing on amounts specifically raised for individual charities. Giving during the year enabled donations at the end of 2007 being as set out below :

<b>Grants</b>		<b>£</b>
13.11.07	Water Aid	439.28
16.12.07	Samaritan's Purse	182.38
16.12.07	Royal British Legion	121.24
16.12.07	Missionary Gift Aid	200.00
16.12.07	Chernobyl's Children, Oxfordshire and South Warwickshire	200.00
16.12.07	St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy	200.00
16.12.07	Peterborough Diocesan Family Care	200.00
16.12.07	Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (Bungoma)	200.00

27.12.07	Christian Aid	157.81
28.12.07	Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers	15.00
30.12.07	African Pastors Fellowship	165.81
	TOTAL	<u>£2,081.52</u>