

St Giles' Annual Report to April 2019

Administration Information

St Giles' Church is prominently situated on Fern Road in the centre of Cropwell Bishop, within an open churchyard. The parish is in the East Bingham Deanery of the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham within the Church of England. There is one churchwarden, Mrs Hilary Tabron, one elected representative Mr Michael Beazley. Also on the PCC from this church community are Mr Steve Gelsthorpe as Deanery Synod rep, and Mr Max Jordon as co-opted treasurer. There has been an average of three members from Cropwell Bishop at PCC meetings throughout the year.

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 stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating and promoting the ecclesiastical parish for the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and associated property.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There are 135 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll for parish of Wiverton in the Vale, 38 of whom are in Cropwell Bishop, or, living outside the parish, regard St Giles' as their home church. The average congregation, excluding major festivals and Remembrance Sunday, was 22 adults and 2 children through 2018, with significant variation according to service type. Highest average adult congregations were for services of Holy Communion, and least for Evening Prayer. All Age services attract highest numbers of children, particularly since the introduction of a more informal JOY! service in November 2018, which has averaged over 10 children and 20+ adults across its first five sessions, plus seen the growth and encouragement of new and younger leaders. Established members of the congregation feel free to choose a service time and type to suit them around the parish, but we are also aware that occasional or new worshippers are unlikely to be aware of such options, but gravitate to their local church.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service (revamped for 2018 with the JOY! team) and Carol Service remain very popular, but numbers were down for Christmas morning Holy Communion. Remembrance Service was very busy and included all age groups of scouts.

There were three baptisms during the year (2 infants and one adult), two funerals carried out in church and three carried out on behalf of the church at a crematorium, and five weddings – the highest number in St Giles' for a long time. One man was confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation Service.

Review of the year

The mid-week **Coffee, Cake and Chat** session has thrived, with an average attendance over 20. It is genuinely inter-generational, and welcomes people beyond the 'worshipping community', including some new families as well as increasing numbers of bellringers. With this group being free of charge and open every week throughout the year, St Giles' has been accepted onto the '**Places of Welcome**' website. It has also attracted the attention of Nottingham and Southwell Guild of Bellringers, who have been impressed with the success of combining general hospitality with a beginners' bellringing session.

There was a **quarter peel rung** in November to mark 100 years since the end of WW1

A weekly **Time for You** session provides the opportunity for anyone to pop into church to chat with established church members, whether generally, or with a concern or a question. There is scope for this to develop once we have a new incumbent.

The church's events for the **Village Celebration Weekend** in July were poorly supported, and we are rethinking for 2019.

St Giles' was not open for **Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Bike Ride** because of a double clash: firstly with the Tour of Britain cycle ride which involved road closures around the village, then secondly with a church wedding which followed within an hour.

'Building on the Past, Looking to the future' was the name given to a public presentation held in St Giles' on 29th September with talks (including from our architect, Carl Andrews), displays to view, and questions taken regarding

proposed re-ordering, with the west end being Phase 1. Feedback forms were distributed, with responses collated. A working party of four are now liaising with Carl towards detailed planning.

We entered a period of **interregnum** in October, with additional tasks and responsibilities shared out. We are well supported by a number of retired clergy, and this has allowed us to maintain agreed service schedules, plus offer occasional services and the associated pastoral work.

Church Maintenance and Improvements

Routine checks and maintenance have been carried out, and the Log Book and Terrier/Inventory are up to date, with the welcome addition of an **electric piano**, connected to the church's amplification system.

Urgent repairs highlighted in QI were completed in July, carried out by Steve Anstey, given permission on a List B basis.

Path lighting was installed in September, carried out by Oglesby Property Services. We obtained a Faculty for this.

Boilers Our elderly and poorly-functioning boiler was condemned and de-commissioned in September. After obtaining quotes and a Faculty, plus planning permission for aspects of the associated outside work, a pair of replacement boilers was installed in March 2019, by Oglesby's Property Services.

The present **Garden of Remembrance** is almost at capacity and we are currently awaiting a Faculty for an extension to this.

Planning is proceeding on our re-ordering project – see above 'Building on the Past, Planning for the Future'.

Thanks..

I am indebted to the many people who share in the worship at St Giles' and support the life of St Giles', whether by attending Home Team meetings every two months or so, or in a variety of other ways, and thank them all.