

**St Peter's Church Babraham: report to Parish Council 2017-2018.**

In some ways, this was always going to be a quieter year after the efforts and energy of the mission in 2016. For us it has seen Jose John and Richard Morgan working as church wardens addressing the running of the church and being supported especially by Shenna King and Mary Hunt. We have sought to widen the involvement of the whole church family in as much as we could and now seek to extend the involvement of the whole village in our work. We have been ably supported by Marian Watson our guest treasurer from Sawston. Marian has now been appointed as Church warden at St Mary's and rightly feels that this must have priority for her. Chyanne Dunne has agreed to be our next treasurer. I would also like to thank Alan Bright for his excellent playing and Brian Paige and Kieran Copper for helping us out when Alan was not able to play.

Anne Lucas is stepping down from as our PCC secretary, but her faithful hard work has produced our readings Rota, and our PCC minutes and agendas with great efficiency and care. A huge thank you to Anne from us all. Sara merit has accepted the role of PCC secretary and we are grateful to her.

Our usual pattern of worship on the first and third Sundays of the month have continued with extra services for the great festivals, in addition two funerals a wedding two baptism and a renewal of wedding vows have taken place. Our bible study continues at Chalk Farm on Wednesday evenings.

Sara and Andy have held Better brew Coffee mornings on the third Saturday morning of each month. We held a film night in October and a quiz night at the George in November.

Much of my time, this year has been involved in two interlinked projects for the village working to sustain the Bush Bennet Trust, with huge help from Sally Puncheon, Hannah Axon, Marian Watson and latterly from Brian Paige, seeking to find an answer to the perennial problem of the Victorian school building behind the alms houses. Long discussions have gone around a circle and we now find ourselves

pretty much back at the beginning! But resolved to finally solve the matter in the coming months. Interlinked with this is the work we have put in to clarify the legal position of the land we found ourselves holding on which the present school is built. This was gifted to the trust by the local authority in the 1950's and any interest we had in it lay dormant, indeed unknown to the present trustees, until the school took the decision to become an academy this year. Then the status of the land, was found in the charity archive, and thus the question our legal liabilities for it and exactly what land was involved this produced a huge amount of concern and a number of meetings with Hewittsons the Cambridge solicitors.

Suffice to say this matter is now largely resolved and the school now part of Diocese of Ely multi academy trust, for Bush Bennet there was no financial gain and some cost. But our work has ensured the future position is clear and our liabilities for upkeep and care are limited by the deeds.

At Babraham School Chess club and Governors work have continued as have "grill the vicar" events with years 5 and 6. Mark Verde left the school at the end of last summer term to return to Thailand and to a well-deserved promotion. He was an outstanding Head at Babraham and worked hard to gain for the school its outstanding award from Ofsted. The new head Mr. David Barrett is working very hard and has taken the school into its next phase as an academy.

We were saddened by Jeff Todd's passing and miss his presence, as we also miss Francis Wilmoth who worshipped with us on occasion and whose presence we always enjoyed.

After nearly 7 years of frustration we are now closer to our goal of repairing the North Porch and turning into a proper toilet and to having a limited but useful kitchen along the north wall of the nave. Clearly this will involve us in grant applications and fund raising in this year if DAC approval is finalized. Grant applications are time consuming but with approved plans and costs we are much more likely to make progress. But it will be hard work. If we ask for help with this, please say Yes!

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in the past year and the Babraham institute for their help on a number of occasions.