

**St Peter's Church,
Wrecclesham.**

**Vision Statement:
"To know Christ and to make him known"**

**2010 Annual Report
and
Financial Statement
of the
Parochial Church Council.**

Incumbent : -

The Revd Dr. Anne Gell
2 Kings Lane,
Wrecclesham,
Farnham, Surrey. GU10 4QB

Bank: -

Santander Bank plc
Brindle Road,
Bootle, Merseyside, GIR OAA.

Independent Examiner: -

Mr Patrick Andrew
3 Clifton House, 7 Castle Hill,
Guildford. GU1 3SX

1. Background

St Peter's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church. In 2010 the PCC met five times with an average attendance of 87%.

St Peter's Vision Statement is: - ***"To know Christ and to make him known"***.

2. Membership

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Clergy ex-officio Member and ex-officio Chairman

The Revd. Dr. Anne E. Gell

Non Stipendiary Minister ex-officio Member

The Revd. Sandy Cavalier

Churchwardens ex-officio

Mr. JEFFERY, Jim (Until April 25th) Mr. BLUES, Gerald and Mrs BLANKLEY, Sadie (From April 25th)

Vice Chairman PCC

Mr. JEFFERY, Jim (Until April 25th) Mr. BLUES, Gerald (From April 25th)

PCC Secretary

Mr. BIRCH, John

PCC Treasurer

Mrs. ZEIHHER. Carol

Deanery Synod Representatives ex-officio

Mr. SKEET, Reg.

Mrs. COXELL, Wendy

Diocesan Synod Representatives ex-officio

Mr. VIRJI, Nasir.

Elected Members

Mr. BAILEY, Brian

Mr. BIRCH, John

Mrs. BLANKLEY, Sadie (Until April 25th)

Mrs. COXELL, Wendy (Until April 25th)

Mr. ELLIS, Christopher (From April 25th)

Mr. GELL, Simon

Mrs. HENDRY, Elizabeth.

Mrs LING, Deborah

Mrs. SCOTT. Judith

Mr. SKEET, Reg

Mr. VIRJI, Nasir (Until April 25th)

Mr. WILKES. Frank

Mrs. ZEIHHER. Carol (From April 25th)

There has been one vacancy which has remained unfilled during the year.

Churches Together In Farnham Representative

Vacancy

3. Committees

The PCC has been assisted by the following sub-committees and groups that it appoints annually.

<u>Standing</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
<u>Mission and Outreach</u>	<u>Building and Grounds</u>	<u>Outward Giving</u>		
<u>Open to All Group</u>	<u>Child Protection Group</u>	<u>Young People Group</u>		

4. Church Attendance

There are 139 parishioners on the Electoral Roll and of that total 32 are non-resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2010 was 82 adults and 16 children or young people under 16.

5. Review of the year

This review contains only the highlights of our year and more detailed reports of sub-committees and groups are published in our Parish Magazine a copy of which is enclosed.

6. New Members of PCC.

In May the PCC welcomed Sadie Blankley as the newly appointed Churchwarden and Christopher Ellis and Carol Zeiher on their return to the PCC (N.B. Photographs of all PCC Members are on the Church Notice Board.) At the same time the PCC passed a vote of thanks for the contribution of the retiring members, Mr .Jim Jeffery who had completed six years of valuable service to the Church as Churchwarden. Mrs Wendy Coxell and Mr Nasir Virji who retired as PCC members. The PCC was pleased to note that Mrs. Coxell's and Mr. Virji's connection with the PCC would continue through their representation on the Deanery or Diocesan Synods.

7. Important Events during the Year.

A number of important events have taken place during what has been a busy and eventful year. These have included:

- The Appointment of the Incumbent as Rural Dean
- The 170th Anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Church
- The adoption of the Parish Development Plan
- The completion of the refurbishment of the South Aisle

These are separately reported upon below.

8. The Appointment of the Incumbent as Rural Dean.

The Parish was delighted to hear of the appointment of our Vicar, The Revd. Dr. Anne Gell to the position of Rural Dean of Farnham. This was formalised on 17th May when a Service of Commissioning was held at St Peters, conducted by the Archdeacon of Surrey, the Ven. Stuart Beake, accompanied by a number of the Vicars from Parishes.in the Farnham Deanery.

At its May meeting the PCC warmly welcomed this appointment and offered Revd. Anne its full support during her period of office.

9. 170th Anniversary of St Peter's Church.

On St. Swithun's Day, Thursday, July 15th the Church celebrated its consecration, 170 years previously in 1840. The day itself was celebrated by a Corporate Communion service, organised by the Mother's Union and over the following weekend a number of further events were organised. On the Saturday the

Church was open all day and there were displays of craft work, flower arranging, etc, together with photographs of bygone Wrecclesham and produce stalls manned by the Women's Institute and Mothers' Union. On the Saturday evening a Victorian Evening was held in the Leverton Hall which was well attended, including many dressed in Victorian costume. The weekend was brought to a fitting conclusion with a celebratory service on the Sunday. To mark the occasion the PCC Secretary had prepared a historical record of the many benefactors who had in the past donated to the Church such items as stained glass windows, the font, the organ, the lectern, the ceremonial cross and various items of furniture. This information has been made available in the Church and is published on our parish web site.

10. The Parish Development Plan.

Certainly the most important work undertaken by the PCC during the year has been the production, and publication of a Parish Development Plan. This work had germinated in November 2009, following a presentation to the PCC given by Tony Hennessy Brown, the Diocesan adviser on Stewardship and Parish Development. Following that meeting the PCC agreed to commit itself to the production of a Parish Development Plan and this work has come to fulfilment during the year.

The essential groundwork for this work was undertaken by one of our Church Wardens, Mrs Sadie Blankley, whose efforts in bringing this to a very satisfactory conclusion must be acknowledged.

Following initial work undertaken by a number of small 'Growing' groups, the first significant event in its development was a well-attended Parish Away Day held in the Parish Hall at Crondall on Saturday 11th September. At its Meeting, the following week, the PCC was asked to give strategic direction to the plan. They agreed there should be three principal themes to concentrate upon: young people; the introduction of technology; and development of our buildings.

These themes were then taken back to the small steering group leading the development of the Plan. A draft of the Development Plan was considered by the PCC at a Special meeting held on 3rd November, when the plan was adopted with unanimous support.

The Plan was launched at a Parish Lunch, attended by 70 parishioners. A copy is attached to this report. In summary it covers five sections each accompanied by specific targets. These are:

- Spiritual Growth and Worship
- The Church Community
- Children and Young People
- Wrecclesham and Beyond
- The Building.

The PCC in supporting the Plan has agreed that the proposals it contains are both realistic and attainable and that it has set the agenda for the Parish in the coming year and beyond.

11. Stewardship.

While it has been emphasised that our Development Plan is not simply about funding, a Stewardship Campaign was launched alongside the Development Plan, in order to consider funding issues, both in respect of current expenditure, and in achieving some of the targets now set in the Plan. The Stewardship Campaign was carefully orchestrated. A copy of the development plan had been circulated to everyone on the Electoral Roll and others who had recently been involved with St. Peters, e.g. through baptisms or weddings.. The plan identified the scale of financial need and was accompanied by a letter to everyone encouraging them to consider their own involvement. Individual members of the congregation were allocated a group of contacts to whom they should speak both about the Development Plan and the needs of the Parish, while encouraging them to complete the accompanying form which asked for their involvement in the Planned Giving Scheme. It is perhaps still too early to assess results but it has been estimated that following this Campaign there was a net increase in Planned Giving of around £8,000, which, with reclaimed Gift Aid, represents an increase in the Church's income of around 25%. In the light of the financial climate in which this was launched, it was felt by the

PCC that this was a worthwhile result. It has been agreed by the PCC that there should be a Renewal Day held every year.

12. Financial

The finances of the parish remain a subject of close scrutiny and have been carefully husbanded by our Treasurer Carol Zeiher. The independently audited accounts accompany this report. The year to 31st December 2010 show a deficit of £2500 on the day to day running of the church. This was below the budgeted figure

While the income received from Planned Giving was below the budget figure, the total income received, from all sources, was higher than the estimate. This was due partly to an increase in income from fees for weddings and funerals, and partly by a transfer of income from the Leverton Hall. There was however a significant reduction in Investment Income due to the low rates of interest prevailing. During the year it was decided to re-invest the capital fund from the sale of St Timothy's Church in funds which would provide a better return in future.

Expenditure overall was lower than the budgeted figure. Major expenditure on the Church Building this year arose from the re-ordering of the South Aisle, the cost of which was largely met from the Legacy Fund. The other major call on expenditure was to replace our Photocopier, to replace an ageing and 'expensive to maintain' machine. This was also largely paid for from Legacy Funds. There is expected to be a large call in future years for the funding of Church Repairs and Refurbishment and, as was reported in our previous annual report, work on repairs to the fabric of the Church will almost certainly require major fund raising.

13. The Legal Status of the Leverton Hall.

At its January meeting the PCC gave consideration to the legal status of the Leverton Hall. For many years the Hall has been operating as a separate Charitable Trust and reporting annually to the Charity Commissioners. It was however noted that :

- the hall had been provided on Diocesan owned land
- was managed by Trustees, all of whom were members of the PCC,
- the hall finances were all under the control of the PCC as Trustees of the Leverton Hall.

After careful consideration of its provenance, and having consulted the Charity Commissioners, it was agreed that the hall is in fact a Parish Hall and as such should be incorporated into the day to day activity of the Parish and included as a designated fund within the Parish Accounts. It was agreed that the hall should be de-registered as a Charity, but would continue to be the responsibility of the PCC, working through a Management Sub Committee.

14. Farnham Town Civic Service.

On Sunday, 13th June, Farnham Town Council, held its Annual Civic Service at St Peter's. This was to mark the appointment of a Wrecclesham resident, Councillor John Ward, as Mayor of Farnham. John Ward is a Governor of St Peter's School and, as a local councillor, has taken a keen interest in Wrecclesham affairs. On this occasion the church was filled with invited guests who included, Farnham MP and the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, the Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt, the High Sherriff of Surrey, the Mayors and Council Officers of many of the Towns in Surrey and many members of our own congregation.

15. Social Activity.

The Social and Fund Raising Sub Committee has continued to promote a series of events throughout the year to attract members of the community to meet and to enjoy each other's company socially. Mention has already been made of the activity associated with the 170th Anniversary of St Peter's Church. Among the other events have been a Parish Breakfast between morning services on Easter

Sunday, Whist Drives in the Parish Hall throughout the winter months, and the ever more popular Coffee gatherings after Sunday Services, now involving Home Made Cake!! The Luncheon Club, for those living on their own, which was mentioned in our last report as likely to end, has been reinvigorated by Christopher and Harriet Ellis who have gathered around them a team of helpers who have enabled this valued activity to continue.

16. The Church Building

The main activity during the year has been the refurbishment of the South Aisle. Thanks to much hard labour, led by Gerald Blues, the pews in the South Aisle were removed, a new floor installed, the area carpeted and provided with comfortable and attractive seating. This now provides good access to the Church for people in wheel chairs or parents with children's pushchairs, thus for the first time meeting the legal requirements of disabled access legislation. There have, however, been many 'spin off' benefits. The space allows more flexible use of the Church for meetings, when the Hall is in use, and enables children to be given worthwhile activity, at small tables, during services. Similar seating has also been provided for the Chapel of St Michael and All Angels, replacing the old, and uncomfortable, wooden seats previously located there.

The Building suffered from the heavy snowfall in January when the weight of snow dislodged some of the guttering on the North Aisle of the Church. This had a number of consequences not least being buckets in the church to collect the rain drops and a rather squeaky organ!! New guttering was erected in the spring and in the autumn the Organ received a major refurbishment. Fortunately the bulk of this cost was met by our Church Insurers.

Thanks are due to the volunteers who clean the Church throughout the year and to those who maintain our churchyard and cemetery by cutting a significant area of grass. In the Autumn a team of volunteers spent a large part of a day tidying the churchyard.

17 Church Web Site.

In the Autumn Sadie Blankley relinquished the role of managing the Church website. However before she handed the task over she and her husband Ken, gave the site a major overhaul. It now provides an excellent record of the activity of the Church throughout the year and is proving to be a very valuable asset. Management of the website has been taken over by Roger Bagnall to whom grateful thanks are recorded.

18. Church Magazine

Christopher Ellis has manfully continued to edit the Church Magazine - now in his 11th year as editor - and produces 10 copies per year of general interest to the Church and the Wrecclesham community. He has recently been assisted in this task by a small editorial group, consisting of himself, Jenny Lawrence and John Birch. With the introduction of the new copier, with its capability to produce not only a better quality of print but also colour copies we hope the magazine will take on a new dimension within the community. Thanks are also due to the team who manfully manage the printer while the magazine is being produced and to Gerald Blues who obtains the advertising which helps to reduce its overall cost.

19. Conclusion.

The foregoing attempts to cover what have been the principal features of a very busy year. The report should be read in conjunction with the April issue of the Parish Magazine which carries reports from the main constituent organisations of and associated with the Church. A copy of the magazine is attached to this Report.