

St. Agnes Church, Cawston, Norfolk

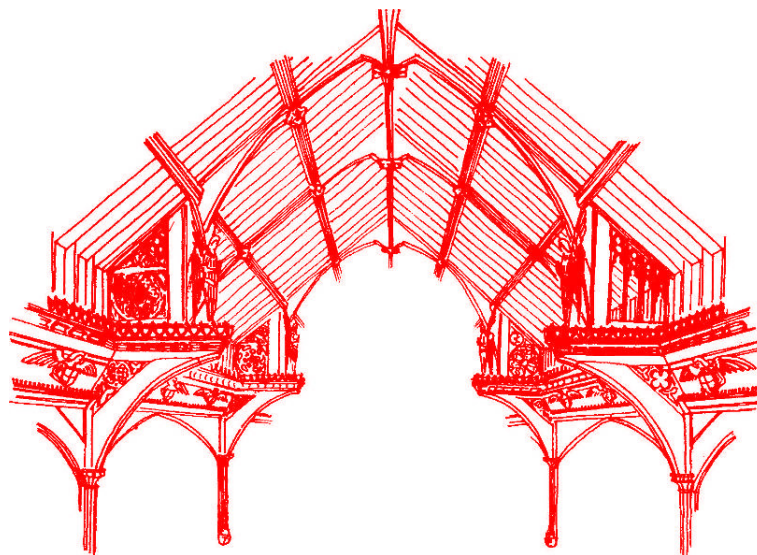
ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Issued by Cawston PCC

March 2005

Special points of interest:

- Average attendance at our Sunday services is now: 38 adults
11 children
- 670 people attended our Christmas services and events
- Successful barn dance held in the summer raised over £2,000
- Major repairs were undertaken to church tower louvres in 2004
- 2004 Parish Share paid in full and on time!
- 2005 Parish Share will rise by 15% to £11,040
- Church electoral roll membership is 36
- In 2004 £1,350 given to local, national and international charities



This picture represents the nave roof inside our world-renowned church building.

It is used in much of our publicity.

Many stunning photographs of the inside of the church can be seen on our web site at: st-agnes.org.uk

St. Agnes Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of coordinating with the incumbent, Reverend Tom Harris, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish with the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building in the centre of Cawston village.

This report highlights the activities and achievements of the church; including a financial summary; over the past year.

Mr. Andrew Cameron-Heffer

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Our year began with well attended Lent services. Maundy Thursday was a truly uplifting occasion with the Passover Supper satisfying our spiritual and hunger needs. All the children were involved in the service and meal and our participation gave us a greater awareness of God. The evening ended with entertainment by the students.

All the major festivals saw an increase in attendance. There were 48 Sunday services of which four were Baptisms. Taking these out, the average adult attendance was 38 plus 11 children. Church electoral roll remains at 36.

The children continue to take an active part in church life with five receiving permission to take the sacraments.

Iwould like to thank all those who made the effort of attending the Joint Benefice Services. Tom, Simon and myself are more than pleased that you are trying to make this work.

There were a number of social events held through the year. The biggest of these being a Barn Dance; this was a very successful public relations exercise. We also hosted a concert by *The Impact Singers*; a Romanian close-harmony singing group. All proceeds from that event went to a Romanian orphanage.

There was a great deal of work and effort involved at these events and I cannot name you all. But for this and all the events, services and just for being there please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Brian Seager

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CHURCH FABRIC

Cawston's pigeons are complaining about the removal of their favourite roost. After many years of fundraising and planning St. Agnes' belfry louvres have been renewed and repaired. The sterling work of FOSTA over many years raised over £15,600 towards the cost of this project. We have been fortunate to receive additional financial support from the Norfolk Churches Trust, the Council for the Care of Churches, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and

other local bodies and individuals.

In the course of the year the PCC appointed a new architect, Mr. Philip Orchard of The Whitworth Partnership. One of Mr. Orchard's first tasks was to supervise the louvres project. Philip has also completed our Quinquennial Inspection, a detailed report of the condition of the building which identifies our maintenance priorities for the coming years.

The PCC is committed to developing and adapting the Church building to meet the needs of our congregation and the local community. Our architect is undertaking a feasibility study which identifies possible ways in which we might sensitively adapt and reorder the building internally. This will form the basis of discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and other statutory bodies.

Mr. Simon Court

CHILDREN'S WORK

St Agnes Sunday School runs on the second and third Sunday of the month. We regularly have more than 10 children ranging from 5 to 14 years. We meet at 10.15, just before the service, in the Scout Hut where we can be louder, and warmer, than in church. We return to the service in time to take part in the Communion.

During the year we have prepared the older children to take communion. We help children to take an active part in our services with readings and prayers.

We are developing our musical abilities with handbells,

singing and percussion instruments. The children have musical ambitions which include playing electric guitars, synthesisers and drums..... this could be interesting!

This year saw the return of the traditional Sunday School Outing. In July we had a day at the seaside. Thanks are due to Graham Alford who organised the day in Cromer. Graham also organized the fundraising coffee morning that paid for the trip. In the great British tradition the children and their families enjoyed the sea, sand, sandwiches, ice cream, chips and a squally shower, not necessarily all at the same time.

Just before Christmas the Great St Agnes Pantomime trip to Sleeping Beauty at the Theatre Royal was enjoyed by the young and not so young. *Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!.....* It is rumoured that the panto has inspired Reverend Harris to plan even more spectacular lighting effects in the next St Agnes Carol Service.

We hope to operate a Crèche for the very young during the Sunday Service but this has not been possible so far. If you would like to be involved please speak to Debbie Graver in the first instance.

Mr. Simon Court

THE CHOIR

In 2004 the choir has...

- maintained membership (12)
- continued commitment (weekly rehearsals)
- expanded its 'operations' (weddings in Heydon and Reepham)
- Learnt to sing unaccompanied and in 2 parts

The choir wishes to thank...

- Mandy Cameron-Heffer — for acting 'as deputy' (a gift of time and talent appreciated by all of us)
- Beeston Regis Church—for giving us their choir music (now catalogued and available on loan to all the churches in the deanery)

In 2005 the choir will...

- host the first ever (?) DEANERY CHOIR DAY!

Mrs. Kate Harris

Visit St. Agnes Church on-line at:

www.st-agnes.org.uk

The site has details of services and forthcoming events together with photo galleries and copies of all recent PCC meeting agendas and minutes. This report is available to download too. Take a look soon!

FINANCE

The P.C.C. was able to pay all its expenses including the Parish Share of £9,601. There had been an increase in planned giving and collections of £2,071 on the previous year. £2,264 was recovered from Income Tax (an increase of £372 on the previous year). The balance at the end of the year was £5,414 which included £536 for the Children's Society.

The Parish Share for 2005 is £11,040 (an increase of £1,439 on the 2004 figure).

The balance in the FABRIC FUND received grants of £15,500 towards louvre repairs and £15,600 from FOSTA. It also received a legacy of £13,296. A small sum is outstanding for the louvre repairs but the balance at the end of the year was £33,428.

The ORGAN FUND increased by £152 during the year, with no expenditure. The year end balance was £3,387.

Income into the MAGAZINE ACCOUNT covered the years expenditure, plus donating £419 to the P.C.C. account (for radio-microphone, choir capes and various charitable donations). The balance at the end of the year was £3,607.

The WAR MEMORIAL FUND increased to £1,664 with interest and dividends being added to the account. There was no expenditure.

The FLOWER FUND balance at the end of the year was £50. During the year £70 had been spent on items to decorate the church.

The BUILDING PROJECT received interest of £16 and with no expenditure during the year finished with a balance of £407.

The BOOK STALL balance increased by £14 during the year to £1,982. There had been expenditure for booklets, cards and leaflets.

BOOTON CHURCHYARD account saw no movement during the year and remained at £312.

FOSTA organised a successful Barn Dance making a profit of £2,173 which together with the sale of cook books and subscriptions gave a total income of £ 2,841. During the year £15,600 was donated to Cawston Fabric Fund for repairs to the louvres. The balance at the end of the year was £415.

Mrs. Rita Mead

ST AGNES CHURCH, CAWSTON FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2004

	Balance at 1st Jan 2004	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31st Dec 2004
P.C.C. General		Collections and tax recovered 13,328 Miscellaneous 1,332 Transfers in 1,574 Restricted 2,335	Parish share 9,601 Running exp. 5,146 Charities 60 Ex.ord 165 Restricted 2,001	
	3,818	18,569	16,973	5,414
Fabric	7,340	47,453 (15,600 from FOSTA) (13,296 Legacy) (15,500 Grants for louvres)	21,365	33,428
Organ	3,235	152	0	3,387
Magazine	3,399	4,173	3,965	3,607
War Memorial	1,487	177	0	1,664
Flower Fund	52	68	70	50
Building Project	391	16	0	407
Book Stall	1,968	1,040	1,026	1,982
Booton Churchyard	312	0	0	312
FOSTA	13,185	4,633	17,403 (15,600 to fabric)	415
	<u>35,187</u>	+ <u>76,281</u>	- <u>60,802</u>	= <u>50,666</u>
<u>PCC balance</u>		of £5,414 includes £536 Restricted Funds for Childrens' Society		
<u>Debtors</u>		Nil		
<u>Other assets</u>		250 shares in Alliance & Leicester - free allocation on Alliance & Leicester going public (War Memorial Fund). Value October 2004 = £2,191		
<u>Liabilities</u>		Nil		
<u>Non-monetary assets</u>		Nil		

THE BOOKSTALL

The bookstall has not made a very big profit this year as we purchased 250 copies of Cawston Village Guide and 2,000 more coloured post cards. Also we bought a good selection of cards from

Quidenham Carmelite Monastery and paid for printing of Service Sheets for Baptism and Funerals.

But the good news is, we sold 30 Ploughman's Lunch Cookbooks

to help FOSTA. We now have a good reserve stock for 2005. Suggestions for new items to sell would be welcome.

Mrs. Iris Bramble

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

The Magazine is still going very well, although we have lost several readers due to moving away but several losses are the elderly who have gone into care or died.

Several new arrivals into the Parish have happily taken their monthly subscriptions out and have sent messages or phoned to say how pleased they are to receive the village news regularly.

The account is still healthy enough to help towards much needed items when monies are scarce elsewhere, and some charities have also benefited at times.

Thelma Durrant is pleased to get to grips with the computer setting and does a really good job every time, often starting before going to her work at school in the morning, and starting again on spare evenings!

We must always thank the distributors who go out in all weathers, gathering subscriptions in January when it is so often better by the fire!

I really enjoy getting material to publish, in the 20 years I've been Editor it has grown into a reasonable read; with apologies for the

occasional mistakes. Now Malcolm's health is causing concern I hope to be able to carry on; I'd really like to, but it does get more difficult, which means I may have to ask for help eventually.

During 2005 we plan to distribute spare copies of the magazine to homes that do not currently receive it in an effort to increase subscriptions.

Mrs. June Hopper

VISITORS TO ST. AGNES

St Agnes' church building is open each day for all to experience its peaceful atmosphere and to enjoy its outstanding architectural features. The Church is a popular destination for visitors to Norfolk. Our spectacular hammer beam roof and painted rood screen are mentioned in guides to the most significant churches in Britain.

Research shows that one church visitor in eight signs the visitors book. In 2004 more than 240

visitors took the time to write in the visitors' book at the back of the church suggesting that St Agnes might have welcomed 1,000 visitors in the year.

Many of those who write in our book have local family links or are investigating their family history. Nearly a quarter of visitors were from abroad. Of our foreign visitors half come from Europe and the rest from as far away as USA and Australia.

Visitors frequently comment how pleased they are that St Agnes is open. It is good to know that they appreciate the commitment of all those who open and close the church come rain or shine. By keeping the church building open to all we are making available a small oasis of calm in our corner of Norfolk and maintaining a unique tourist attraction to the benefit of the local economy.

Mr. Simon Court

WHO ARE THE PCC?

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

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

Incumbent:	The Rev. Tom Harris
Wardens:	Mr. Simon Court (<i>also Child Protection Officer</i>) Mr. Brian Seager
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Mr. Andrew Cameron-Heffer (<i>also PCC Secretary</i>) Mrs. Jane Court (<i>also PCC Lay Vice-Chairman</i>)
Elected members:	Mr. Peter Boxshall Mrs. Iris Bramble Mrs. Betty Brunt (<i>resigned during year</i>) Mrs. Lyn Fairchild (<i>also Deputy Warden</i>) Mrs. Debbie Graver Mrs. June Hopper Mrs. Grace Seager
Co-opted member:	Mr. Alex Young (<i>FOSTA representative</i>)

Mrs. Rita Mead served as our treasurer, although not as a PCC member.