

# **Halvergate with Tunstall Parochial Church Council**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The Rector, Rev. Martin Greenland, and members of Halvergate with Tunstall Parochial Church Council were responsible for the Church activities in Halvergate and Tunstall and for the maintenance of the building of St Peter and St Paul, Halvergate.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

INCUMBENT	Rev. Martin Greenland	
CHURCHWARDEN	Mr. Nick Butcher	Vice Chairman
DEANERY SYNOD	Mrs. P Butcher	
ELECTED MEMBERS	Mrs. S. Blake	Electoral Roll Secretary
	Mrs. P. Butcher	Treasurer, Secretary
	Mrs N. Cann	Minute Secretary
	Mrs F. Collins	
	Mrs S More	safeguarding, gift aid, sidesman, clergy wellbeing rep
	Mr. C. Reader	sidesman

### **SERVICES:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9-30am Morning Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9-30am Holy Communion

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9-30am Matins

Morning Prayer has usually been led by Nicholas Cowen; Holy Communion by the Rector, and Matins by the Churchwarden.

We welcomed Sisters Elizabeth Pio and Heidi Marie to take two services of Matins. In June, instead of Matins the congregation joined with Freethorpe when Rev Peter Halls, a previous incumbent, took the service. Two services were held at Tunstall: Morning Prayer at Lammas led by Nicholas Cowen and Morning Worship on the first Sunday of Advent by Rev. Aitken. There have been two services with the Methodists: the Covenant Service in January at Freethorpe and Holy Communion in July at Reedham..

The Book of Common Prayer has again been used for services with readings from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible except for Christmas when the King James Version was used.

### Special Services in the Parish:

- Easter Eve at Tunstall
- Lammas at Tunstall ( Morning Prayer) led by Nicholas Cowen
- Remembrance Sunday following the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial
- Advent Sunday at Tunstall led by Rev Aitken.
- Service of Lessons and Carols.

Freethorpe Methodist Chapel again hosted a memorial service on Remembrance Sunday but as some parishioners from Wickhampton and Freethorpe attended Halvergate, names from Wickhampton and Freethorpe as well as Halvergate were read out at the memorial. Brownies, Guides and Rainbows attended. There were 40 adults and 21 young people in attendance

World Day of Prayer was held at Freethorpe Methodist Chapel.

A Christmas Leaflet was distributed to all houses in the village. The Carol Service, preceded by refreshments was held at 6pm on the Friday before Christmas and attracted 40 people.

Average attendances at Sunday services was just over 8, but some weeks, attendance was very low at 5 or 6. This has been caused by less regular attendance by some of the 'regulars'.

Organists have been Brenda Pawsey (for Matins) and Ian Hytch who travelled from Norwich for Communion. Due to ill health Ian retired in October. Michael Nicholas played on Remembrance Sunday,

**Occasional Offices:** There was one funeral followed by burial of Ashes and a separate burial of Ashes. There was one wedding service taken by Rev Sue Shillam.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

There were 11 people on the Electoral Roll in 2024.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

The Church has been open daily for visitors from 10am to 4pm. John and Frances Collins have been responsible for unlocking and locking the Church.

The services at Tunstall Church on Lammas Sunday and Advent Sunday were followed by breakfast and the Easter Fire was preceded by drinks at the home of Robert and Sally More.

The refreshments were provided at the May, August and November sessions of the Acle Farmers' Market

John Collins cycled in the Churches Bike Ride and raised £128 for Halvergate Church, which will show in the 2025 finances.

The Benefice Christian Link group met in the Summer months and was attended by ladies from the Parish. .

Members of Halvergate Church have continued to be involved with 'Open the Book', dramatizing Bible stories, undertaken by an Ecumenical Benefice Group, in Reedham and Freethorpe Schools.

The Church was full for the Freethorpe School Carol concert. A rehearsal was held in the Church, and as a result of this, youngsters who would have played on a keyboard used the organ.

### **P.C.C.**

Two P.C.C. meetings were held, plus a short one straight after the joint Annual Parochial Church meeting. The meeting for election of Churchwardens was held after Matins in March and the joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May at Reedham Parish Church.

Halvergate was represented at Benefice and Deanery meetings and on the Clergy and Well-being initiative.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A report was given at PCC meetings. The Benefice Safeguarding officers communicate regularly. Sally More was our Safeguarding Officer.

### **FINANCE**

The Parish Share for the Benefice in 2024 was increased to £70420 and Halvergate's share was £7850. We only paid £4442 because of other demands. £200 was paid monthly and additional amounts after we received money from fees and Gift aid. Insurance was again paid monthly.

From the accounts, it looks as if the Gift Aid increased to £2294.57 in 2024 from £1448.59 in 2023. Actually there was an over payment. We received the Gift Aid twice and, in addition the correct amount for the 'small donation scheme'. This also happened in 2023 when the over payment was returned. In 2024 we were



advised to deduct it from our claim in 2025. This means we can only expect between £300 and £400 in 2025.

£195.94 was credited to us from the 2023 Bike ride and our only other fundraising was from serving teas at the Farmers' market.

The Parish Council gave us a grant for grass cutting in the Churchyards at Halvergate and Tunstall and we paid the contractor directly. The PCC is grateful to the PC for this.

The year opened with a balance of £627.45 in the **Current account** and closed with £2952.31. The high closing balance was due to the overpayment of Gift Aid and the non transference of money back to the Fabric fund following reimbursement from the Church Commissioners.

The **Capital** account opened with a balance of £6103.86 and after the addition of interest closed with a balance of £6438.26.

The **Fabric Fund** opened with a balance of £4333.34 and closed with a balance of £1551.06. Money was transferred to the current account for preliminary work on the roof. The Church Commissioners on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, reimbursed us for this preliminary work and the bat survey from 2023, less the VAT. The VAT was reclaimed. However other Fabric bills, including electrical survey and wall surveys took most of this and the Treasurer did not get the remainder transferred back before the year end.

**The Hewitt Fund** (Graveyard) remained at £1153.79.

**The Organ Fund** increased by £8.99 to £1170.28.

Interest on these accounts all improved on 2023 levels.

An agreement was reached with the Parish Council whereby in consideration for a release of restrictive covenants to facilitate a sale of the former Halvergate Village Hall the PCC would receive a 30% share of the net proceeds of sale.

Doug Blake was the Independent Examiner of the Church books

## **FABRIC**

Freya Jennings, a teenager in the village, has cleaned the Church weekly.

A Quiquennial Report from the Church Architects, Whitworth was received in August. It confirmed that the Church was "generally in fair order with defects in discrete areas". The Chancel re-roofing was the most urgent matter together with repairs to the tower roof, and an electrical and heating survey was due. The south boundary wall remains a concern.

Repairs to the tower roof were undertaken to make it watertight. An electrical report was received and tenders are awaited for work to update the installations.

Consultation with professional advisors and regulatory authorities continues prior to the submission of planning and faculty applications to remove the remains of the wall and replace with a soil embankment, taking care not to damage tree roots.

Testing of fire extinguishers took place, and gutters were cleaned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.A. Barber', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of the P.C.C.  
Lay Vice Chairman

10<sup>th</sup> April 2025