

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
BEIGHTON WITH MOULTON ST MARY

Annual Report & Financial Statement

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Incumbent:

The Reverend Martin Greenland

The Rectory, Norwich Road, Acle, Norwich NR13 3BU

Banks:

Lloyds Bank plc, 19 Hall Quay, Great Yarmouth NR13 1HH

Barclays Bank plc, The Street, Acle, Norwich NR13 3DZ

Independent Examiner:

Mrs A V Boggis

Four Seasons, Cantley Road, South Burlingham, Norwich NR13 4HB

Mr M Northover

Tuckahoe, Chapel Road, Beighton, Norwich NR13 3LE

PARISH OF BEIGHTON WITH MOULTON ST MARY

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 17 May 2020

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence

- 2 Minutes of the last meeting held Sunday 28 April 2019

- 3 For consideration of:
 - a) The Rector's report
 - b) The updated electoral roll
 - c) An annual report on the work of the PCC
 - d) The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019
 - e) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the parish

- 4 Elections
 - a) Deanery Synod representative
 - b) Election of 6 representatives to the PCC

- 5 Matters of parochial or general church interest

All Saint Church, Beighton – Annual Report for 2019

Background

The Parochial Church Council for All Saints Church, Beighton has the responsibility of planning with the incumbent the whole task of the church in its caring, witnessing, social and ecumenical work. The responsibility includes the maintenance of the church building and churchyard and the maintenance of the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Moulton.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

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

Incumbent	The Reverend Martin Greenland
Wardens	Mrs Ann Adey Mrs Rosemary Whyborn
Deanery Synod Rep	None
Elected Members	Mrs Teresa Trueman, Vice Chair Mrs Kathleen Ashcroft, Treasurer, Secretary & Fabric Officer Mr Peter Trueman Mr David Whyborn Mrs Claire Mackay

The PCC met seven times during the year. Attendance at five of the meetings was 100%.

The Rector's Benefice Report 2019

We began the year by saying farewell and thank you to Lorna and Peter Allies. Their legacy includes the *Friends of Wickhampton Church*, which took formal shape during the year; and the toilet at Freethorpe, dedicated by Bishop Alan on his visitation in February. That facility has enabled increased use of the church, notably a monthly drop-in, *Coffee, Cake and Chat*.

The House for Duty post at Reedham was to remain vacant for the whole of the year: I'm grateful to everybody within the Benefice who has helped make that manageable; and to visiting clergy. The Sunday load has been shared by our own Readers and Authorised Worship Assistants; it was wonderful to be able to prepare two more AWAs at Limpenhoe in Simon Ash and Sarah Mules. Their desire to grow the church was evidenced in the increasingly successful additional services they conducted through Advent. Prior to this Simon needed to be Confirmed, joining Simon Pittam and the rest of the innovative Deanery Confirmation Preparation group.

Sadly numbers of Baptisms dropped, with only one at Acle and 6 in the Benefice as a whole (one of them at Tunstall, thanks to the arrival of Robin More). So did weddings (3: all at Acle); although this ministry is still worth celebrating, with one couple particularly appreciating the welcome they experienced on Sundays at St. Edmund's; and two renewals of wedding vows during the year – one of them Freethorpe's Australian friends.

The number of funerals conducted at crematoria or cemeteries (7) also continued to fall, as civil celebrants take an increasing share. The resultant drop in fee income is worryingly affecting finances at both parish and diocesan level; against that background, the fact that in 2019 we still managed to pay 95% demonstrates the Benefice commitment to Parish Share.

Against the national trend, the number of funerals in church held up (22). That is partly due to our open churchyards (thank you to those who oversee and maintain them); but it's clearly an aspect of our ministry which is valued within our communities. Every death is significant; among those of more than local impact were the loss of retired Reader Peter Trueman; *Mother's Union* stalwart Jean Cunnington; retired funeral director Tony Moll and Dr. Nick Ireland.

On a brighter sacramental note our Benefice (or its predecessor) did have a hand in an ordination: that of James Gilder, resulting in a joyful visit to Chelmsford Cathedral.

Our church bells (including Acle and Halvergate) sounded more frequently during the year, with the continuing revival of *Reedham Ringers*. Towards the end of the year they celebrated their first anniversary; but also marked the passing of a former tower captain, Peter Luckins.

Compared with 2018, Sunday congregation numbers appear stable. Working with children in the Church is often an up-and-down experience: *Reedham Chill Church* had variable numbers through the year; but a particular highlight was the visit to Norwich Cathedral and its helter-skelter installation. The experiment of holding a floating, monthly evening service in the Benefice didn't justify making this a permanent feature. The most successful of these slots was taken by the Benefice Choir's Easter celebration, *Thy Lord is Risen*. The Choir also took up an invitation to sing Evensong at Norwich Cathedral; and for Halvergate's *Book of Common Prayer Day*, marking its continuing contribution to Anglican worship in and beyond our Benefice.

We continue to strengthen our ecumenical links. Reedham hosted the July service for what is now to be known as *Freethorpe & Area Churches Together* (that's a FACT). This celebrated the national anniversary of *Open the Book*, which continues in three of our Primary Schools (although new team members would be welcome). We said farewell to Steve Cullis and welcomed a new local Methodist Minister in Andrew King. Members of St. Edmund's joined Acle Methodists for their Covenant Service (relocated to the Recreation Centre by building work at the church); on Good Friday and for occasional *Just Desserts* (conversation with calories).

Building work also impacted some of our congregations during the year. Most significantly, Beighton's superb fundraising efforts successfully gave way in July to the start of work on their *Rethatching & Improvements Project* (now not programmed to end until September 2021). Much smaller in scale (though, frustratingly, equally long-lasting) Acle's underground heating boiler was replaced with a new one in a purpose-built cabinet. Funded by the Parish Council, Acle's clock mechanism was renewed; and Halvergate's crumbling plasterwork was attended to. Thank you to Fabric Officers and Churchwardens for their care of our places of worship.

The Church of England managed to find another Bishop Graham to fill the vacancy in see; some church members were able to meet him when he visited the Deanery within a week of his enthronement. I think he's finding the Diocese to be in good heart; as is our Benefice.

Martin Greenland

Report on the updated Electoral Roll

There were 7 members on the Electoral Roll in 2019 until Peter Trueman sadly passed away on 11 August.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PCC 2019

Services for 2019 continued as usual with Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Morning Prayer on the third. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 6.

Until the restoration and improvements project got underway at the end of July services were held in the Nave but then continued in the Chancel. On a chilly Sunday 7 April we welcomed Oscar Royal in Holy Baptism. An Act of Remembrance was held at the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard, Moulton in November.

The Restoration Appeal fundraising team were kept busy planning events in the first half of the year with a rousing Ceilidh in March, the Easter Eggstravaganza in April, a Car Treasure Hunt in May and a very successful Fete and Auction in June.

In the November, the annual quiz took place with new quizmasters and a new menu. The Beighton Quiz and Chilli (or Cottage Pie) evening was equally as successful as in previous years.

The Christmas service was another revamped event in that it was held in the village hall for the first time, led by Nicholas Cowen our Lay Reader. The church was not viable because of the restoration work and limited seating in the Chancel. A very good number attended and enjoyed the music provided by Broadland Band with refreshments following the service.

The PCC continued its policy of having the church open to visitors until the contractors arrived on site on 29 July. From this point the public were not allowed to enter the church for Health & Safety reasons but walkers were still permitted to cross the churchyard to access the footpath or road. We look forward to welcoming visitors once again after the church re-opens in the summer of 2020.

Ann Adey
Churchwarden

Rosemary Whyborn
Churchwarden

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2019

General Fund – The opening balance for the year was £1,919.59, slightly down on that for 2018. Receipts for 2019 were up by around £400 on the previous year with increases in Sunday cash, donations (non gift-aided), tax refunds on gift aided donations and small donations from 2018, and fundraising. Payments were down by £611 partly due to a lower parish share request, less costs for fundraising, lower stationery and services costs. These were slightly offset by increases in insurance and electricity as well as the introduction of the PCC's contribution to the Rector's expenses for three of the four quarters. The Parish Share was again paid in full thanks to the annual quiz and Christmas service. The closing balance for General Funds was £2,211.19 which was quite respectable considering no additional donations had been received from casual visitors since restoration work began at the end of July. The forecast for 2020 is not good with monthly expenses exceeding regular income. It is hoped that visitors will return in abundance in 2020 once the church is open again to the public.

Restoration (Fabric) Fund – There was no movement on the Fabric Fund in 2019 other than a small amount of interest accumulated.

Charities – As is traditional, three charities were supported during the year: East Anglian Air Ambulance, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Toilet Twinning. The total raised was £173.79.

Organ Fund – The Organ Fund increased by £231.91 through donations, interest and gift aid on small donations to bring the total to £5,078.71.

Restoration & Improvements Appeal – The Appeal opening balance was £3,852. 2019 was another busy year of fundraising with £5,408 being added through events and donations plus tax reclaimed on gift aid. The most impressive event was the Summer Fete & Auction raising £2,222. The best news of all, however, was learning that the project had been approved for funding by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to the tune of £221,000. This enabled successful applications from the National Churches Trust (£20,000), the Garfield Weston Foundation (£10,000), Norfolk Churches Trust (£8,500), Allchurches Trust (£5,250) and the Geoffrey Watling Trust (£1,500). VAT reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme amounted to £14,956. Interest accumulated in the deposit account was £242. At the year end, £131,464 had been paid out to the contractor and on professional fees.

Emergency Fund and Churchyard Fund – no movement on either fund other small amounts of interest.

Kate Ashcroft, Treasurer

Independent Examiners Certificate

Report to the trustees/ members of:
On accounts for the year ended:
Charity no (if any):

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:
Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

Address:

