

Parish of Limpenhoe, Southwood & Cantley NORFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT for 2019

Incumbent: Rev'd Martin Greenland

Background

The Parish comprises three Churches, St. Botolph in Limpenhoe, St. Margaret in Cantley and St. Edmund (ruin) in Southwood. It is part of the Diocese of Norwich within the Church of England. The parish is rural with few amenities and forms one of seven in the United Benefice of the Acle and Bure to Yare which was established in June 2015 following a reorganisation of the Blofield Deanery.

Aim and Purpose

Limpenhoe, Southwood & Cantley Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Martin Greenland, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St. Botolph.

It also has oversight for the remains of St. Edmund, Southwood, which was dilapidated in 1881 and is now a Grade II listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument. Historic England, English Heritage, Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council have been asked to decide the future maintenance work required. Currently £4000 is held in restricted funds, which is to be used towards this work. The churchyard is included in the NWT Churchyard Conservation Scheme and has been managed by BADCOG since 1990.

The Parish Church of St. Margaret, Cantley is leased to the Diocese of Norwich Churches Trust, which is responsible for its maintenance.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at their church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within it. Our services put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. It is also aware that for the church to thrive it needs to encourage more diverse uses of the building.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Everyone is welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 9 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. There were a total of 31 services with an average attendance of 9 per service. There was also one group Benefice service held at St. Botolph's. The attendance increased at festivals and Christmas where there was standing room only at the carol service. For the second year running a midnight service on Christmas Eve was led by Sarah Mules and Simon Ash. In the absence of an associate priest, Sarah and Simon have been training as Authorised Worship Assistants being mentored by Rev'd Martin Greenland also further helped by retired rector, David Casson.

Occasional services are held at St. Margaret's, five of them for or with Cantley Primary School. There were fewer additional services in 2019 because of the lack of an Associate Priest in the benefice.

We have held one funeral in Limpenhoe and three burials in Cantley this year.

Simon Ash was Confirmed by Bishop Alan on 5th September at Ranworth Church.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representative Rules. At St. Botolph's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church community. The PCC has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 following the guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding training has been carried out in accordance with the guidance and safeguarding is a standing item on all PCC meetings. DBS checks have been carried out where needed.

The full PCC meet six times during the year. PCC members who have served during some or all of the period from 1st January 2019 until 31st December are:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Martin Greenland (Chairman)

Elected Members

- Mr Mike Brook (Church Warden, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Mr John Mules (Church Warden)
- Mrs Sarah Mules
- Mr Simon Ash

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens and also Pat Bennett and Sue Goodchild who decorate the church so beautifully with flowers throughout the year. We are also grateful to those who help look after St. Margaret's Church and churchyard.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £3,890 and further receipts of £1,271 were from tax refunds and income on investments.

Total income was down by 5% compared with 2018. This was mainly due to a fall in fees due to the PCC.

£5,274 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. Botolph's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that increased by 5% in the year and largely provides the stipend and housing for the clergy.

Parish Share - the sum that the churches in the benefice have to find is calculated according to a formula that takes account of the number of priest-led services, average attendance and unrestricted income.

The PCC continued to receive restricted grants from the Parish Council for the cutting of the grass in Limpenhoe and Cantley churchyards. There were two restricted donations to enable the PCC to carry out pest control of rabbits in the churchyard. Maintenance work was carried out on the boundary to the south of the Churchyard including the replanting of the hedge by the local conservation group BADCOG who received a donation towards the costs of plants.

The net result for the year was a shortfall of receipts over payments of £113 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £24,676. There remains a restricted balance of £4,491.

The accounts are based on the bank statements, receipts and other records maintained by Mr Michael Brook, for whose work we are grateful. Mr Brook's sad death meant that he could not be consulted to resolved apparent discrepancies. These, however, were not substantial and it is not considered that the accounts are materially affected

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Martin Greenland (PCC Chairman)



Chairman
26/05/2020