

# **Mundham with Seething**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

### **Priest-in-Charge**

The Reverend Lynn Chapman  
The Vicarage  
The Street  
Brooke

### **Bank:**

Barclays Bank  
Loddon

**Independent Examiner:**

## Introductory Letter

The development of a Growth Plan for the Benefice was the main task of 2016 and this was completed and dedicated on Advent Sunday. The plan was developed in consultation with all those who worship in our churches. We were encouraged to focus on the good things that have been part of our Benefice life and to discern where God may be calling us to work in the future. Sundays in June were particularly used to pray and discuss our plans and the formal plan was adopted by PCCs in November. Attached to the plan is an action plan which helps us to work out a “one step at a time” approach and to be able to evaluate our progress. I am pleased to say that some of the first steps were in place before the turn of the year. The Growth Plan and its action plan are both available to view on the Benefice Web-site.

Throughout the year we continued a regular pattern of worship in all five of our churches. Using our established selection forms of worship we continued to keep the seasons of the church's year. This year we met less often as a Benefice, mainly doing so when there was a “fifth Sunday”, but these services were enjoyed by those who attended. Over the year Café Church continued to see a steady rise in attendance and we made the decision to have a monthly service at both Kirstead and Mundham/Seething. This was made possible by the willingness of our Reader, John Ash, and the Churchwardens of Mundham, to lead Café Church – a big “thank you” to them for their generosity.

2016 was a record year for weddings with ten taking place across the Benefice. Welcoming so many couples and their guests was a great honour and an opportunity to show them the care and love that lie at the heart of our faith. Baptisms also took place, usually at Café Church services, and we welcomed some large family groups who were delighted to feel so at home in church. Across the year there were also a number of funerals in our churches, some followed by burials in our churchyards. We continued to take Songs of Praise to Brooke House once a month. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Alan again in December as three of our members were Confirmed and we continue to pray for them as they develop in the faith. June saw our first attempt at “Songs of Praise at the Meres” in Brooke when we gathered outside for worship. We hope that this may become an annual event. We also took part in the national “Thy Kingdom Come” project between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

After some prayer, thought and discussion, 2016 was the year when we opened all our churches to the public. We arranged the necessary insurance cover and all can now be accessed by visitors throughout the year. Some work was done to make the buildings welcoming and to interpret their features but this will be a task to continue in 2017. We have received feedback in visitors' books and in person that tells us that locals and tourists alike are enjoying the peace and quiet of our ancient churches.

Throughout the year we continued to fund raise and were able to make inroads towards paying the Parish Share, with most parishes being able to raise the amount asked of them. Attendance at a Benefice Support Meeting in November was again very positive and we have made a decision to divide the share differently for 2017, to give all parishes a better chance of paying. Aside from making money we enjoyed a good number of social events during the year including the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in Thwaite, Open Gardens at Seething, a very sunny coffee morning at Mundham and the Garden Fete at Brooke. We also enjoyed a Benefice outing to Sheringham where Evensong was sung by the two St Peter's choirs. Heartfelt thanks are expressed to all those who give of their time and skills to make all these events possible, they are greatly appreciated by all who experience them.

The coming year will once more be one of challenges, but we hope that our strategic planning will provide a focus for our efforts. We will continue to review our worship and look at ways to encourage others to join us whilst also seeking methods to help the “hidden congregations”, who use our churches during the week when they are empty, to develop and nurture their own faith. We will continue to seek ways to grow in our own knowledge and love of God, so that we may help others to find that love for themselves.

*The Reverend Lynn Chapman  
Priest-in-Charge  
January 2017*

## **The Parochial Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Mundham with Seething, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership in 2016:

|                                  |                       |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Priest-in-Charge                 | Reverend Lynn Chapman |  |
| Churchwardens                    | Mrs Gillian Balls     | (St Peter's, Mundham)                  |
|                                  | Mrs Margaret Key      | (St Peter's, Mundham)                  |
|                                  | Mrs Ann Garnham       | (St Margaret and St Remegius Seething) |
| Representatives on Deanery Synod | Mrs Margaret Eastham  |  |
| Elected Members                  | Mrs Jilly Le Coq      |  |
|                                  | Mrs Ann Rudd          | (From May 2016)                        |
|                                  | Mrs Judy Baldwin      |  |
| Secretary                        | Mrs Judy Baldwin      |  |
| Treasurer                        | Mrs Judy Baldwin      |  |

At the time of the Annual Meeting in 2016 there were 16 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance was 12. There were 1 baptisms, 3 weddings, and 2 funerals (including cremations) during the year 2016.

The PCC met four times during the year. Among other items addressed were:

- Meeting with Diocese to discuss the Parish Share.
- Worship patterns over the year.
- Committed to growth.

During the year the worshipping community of the Parish continued to worship Almighty God, to build up faithful Christian witness and to proclaim the Gospel to the community.

### **DEPWADE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016**

Our February meeting was at St Marys, Long Stratton. Bishop Alan Winton, Bishop of Thetford, told us about the process to do with Scripture, Mission and Human Sexuality which is currently taking place across the Dioceses. The country has been divided into 13 regions and Bishop Alan is leading the discussions in our Diocese.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we all came together for a Deanery Choral Evensong at St Peters Church, Brooke. This was preceded by a country walk and afternoon tea. It was a nice occasion and enjoyed by many from across the Deanery.

For our October meeting we were privileged to spend the evening at Norwich Cathedral. On arrival we shared a lovely supper together in the refectory. Following this we met in the cloisters where the dean welcomed us and took us on a very interesting tour of the cathedral. The evening finished with a service of Compline taken by the dean. This all felt quite special as we were the only people in the cathedral at the time.

Rosemary Sanford Brooke Benefice Rep.

## **FABRIC REPORT**

### **MUNDHAM:**

At the west end of the churchyard 2 new large oak gateposts were erected and the original arch of metal replaced, the same wooden gate was used again. A new metal and perspex notice board was erected at the side of the west end steps. In April several tiles were replaced on the south side roof near the tower after the Easter gales.

E-On replaced the electricity meter on the second attempt; the first engineer was unable to carry out the work so £30.00 compensation was received for the inconvenience caused. A full inspection of the church was carried out by Ecclesiastical Insurance. The downpipes and gutters on the southeast side of the church had been cleared. The floors in the tower and nave are washed weekly to remove the bats mess and urine.

The hedges and grass in the churchyard are cut on a regular basis and the gravestones have been strimmed round also the church path is kept edged and raked. Also the leaves and pine needles have been removed from around the downpipes.

New waterproof seat cushions have been purchased with the designated funds from the late Mr Kenneth Balls and Anglian Water; also 2 electrical heaters have been donated. The Quinquennial Inspection has been carried out on the interior and exterior of the church and we were praised for the improved appearance "In and Out of the Church". An Asbestos Management Survey has taken place and the Organ and Fire extinguishers have been serviced.

### **SEETHING:**

The areas in the chancel to the north side of the screen has been treated and successfully cleared the green algae. The south door has been adjusted making it easier to open. The areas of lead on the roof and gutters and down pipes have been marked with Smartwater.

The slates on the west side of the porch, which had slipped, have been adjusted also the drains have been cleared. These are some of the items mentioned in the quinquennial report.

## **Other Church Activities**

### **FRIENDS OF SEETHING CHURCH REPORT TO THE PCC for 2016**

The Friends of Seething Church was founded in 2008 with a view to helping to preserve the fabric of our beautiful little round-towered church, and to conserve the wall paintings within it. To that end we have put on at least two events a year and have paid for some extra heating and for the large curtain over the tower entrance to contain that heat. In addition we paid for a report on the condition of the wall paintings which are in need of conservation and for which we envisage approaching the National Lottery. Exceptionally during the period under review, we received a request from the PCC to make a contribution towards the insurance premium for the church and accordingly we gave them £500.

Last year we put on three events: the first was a welcome return of Upper Octave. It was a great evening if not very profitable financially. We cleared £312. The second event was a Jazz concert which was supposed to be by a group called Tuba Swingy. The group had a major falling out, so a week before the concert, we found ourselves with no band. Fortunately Alan Bates, who was our contact with Tuba Swingy, managed to find us an absolutely superb replacement in Phil Brooke and three friends. It turned out to be a really special evening and we made £472.

The third event was the Annual Autumn/Christmas Fair. Once again it was a great event with an excellent atmosphere. There were a lot of people who came from outside the village thanks to an item on Radio Norfolk and publicity in the EDP. This made us £1000 thanks in large part to the contribution of Sylvie Ireland who once again produced beautiful cakes, master-minded the hamper and made dozens of pots of jam of all varieties. We ended the year with £7,942 in the bank.

In spite of the best efforts of everyone and the variety of entertainment on offer, audiences (apart from the Christmas Fair) were small and we are very conscious that we rely on our faithful supporters to attend. This will be one of the things that we will need to address. We put out a call for suggestions for future events and have received one or two which we will consider at our next meeting.

Finally the Committee would like to express its thanks to our Vicar, The Rev Lynn Chapman for her support. Rev Lynn is in touch with the Diocese over faculties and permissions to get some essential works under way such as French Drain round the Church. It is hoped this will help with the damp. A great success is managing to keep the Church open on a more or less permanent basis. This will help from the fund-raising point of view when we start approaching national bodies.

**Peter Smith**

### **Community Lunches**

During 2016, ten Community Lunches were held in Seething and Mundham Village Hall. Lunches in January and August are generally avoided as these fall in the school holidays. Lunches have been well attended, with numbers rarely dipping below 30 and on several occasions we have catered for well over 40. We tend to see our `regulars' from all 3 villages with occasional guests from further afield and ages have ranged from tots of 1 yr to several nonagenarians!

A core group of volunteers arrives at 10am and the hall is set up (we always have bunting!) with the first guests arriving at 12 noon sharp (and sometimes earlier). Being able to store our boxes of cutlery and general kitchen paraphernalia in the hall has helped to streamline the preparation. All soups and desserts all freshly made and reflect seasonal ingredients. Bread rolls and teas and coffees are also provided which for the £3 per head charge for the meal, we hope reflects remarkably good value. We do have a small increase for the traditional December lunch.

We generally need a team of 5 volunteers to realistically manage each lunch and happily we have achieved this throughout the year as a result of our call for more help in 2015 when numbers became alarmingly low on some occasions. We always welcome more offers of help however to see that this valuable community initiative continues to thrive.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT 2016**

Things have run quite smoothly during 2016 but sadly we made a loss of just over £2000.00 on the year despite having 3 very good fund raising events which brought in £1467.00. £5068.00 was paid towards the Parish Share and there was a shortfall of just over £3000.00. We would hope to pay this in full in 2017 as it is now reduced to approximately £5500.00. The insurance has increased due to the fact that the churches are now open 24/7 but there has also been an increase in the amount of money being put in the wall safe's so hopefully this will almost cover the extra cost of the insurance.

The designated funds for Mundham have almost all been spent during 2016, £1028.00 has been spent on seat cushions for the pews and 2 new notices boards were also purchased and the wall safe repaired, this leave £108.00 in the funds. Seething has £1882.00 designated funds this is made up of £1061.00 in memory of the later Mr G Moore and £871.00 in memory of Major Le Coq. A £50.00 donation towards hymn books was taken from this account.

£420.00 was claimed from HMRC for Gift Aid but the small donations claim was rejected due to the fact that we hadn't had 2 complete years since starting to claim but this will be done in 2017.

**Mundham and Seething PCC**

**Balance Sheet 01.01.16 -31.12.16**

**Annual Accounts**

**Income**

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Planned Giving                      | 1572.00         |
| Collections                         | 1800.53         |
| Fund Raising: Open Gardens          | 493.25          |
| Honers Diary                        | 250.00          |
| Coffee Morning                      | 724.00          |
| Carol Singing                       | 70.15           |
| Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride         | 136.63          |
| Funerals/Memorials etc              | 1312.00         |
| Weddings                            | 1484.00         |
| Donations: Churchyard (PC)          | 350.00          |
| Friends (Insurance)                 | 500.00          |
| Newsletter Adverts                  | 84.00           |
| Community Lunch                     | 140.00          |
| Newsletter Adverts                  | 100.00          |
| Wall Safe                           | 69.14           |
| Vicars Garden Party                 | 70.00           |
| Designated Funds(late Major Le Coq) | 871.10          |
| HMRC Gift Aid                       | 420.55          |
| Donations                           | 25.00           |
| Archdeacons Charge(Lynn)            | 68.00           |
|                                     | <u>10540.35</u> |
| Income to 31.12.16                  | 10540.35        |
| Less Expenses to 31.12.16           | 12646.58        |
| Savings Account Interest 2016       | 4.28            |
|                                     | <u>-2101.95</u> |
| Current at 31.12.16                 | 1100.47         |
| Savings Account at 31.12.16         | 8569.09         |
| Less Unpresented Cheques            | -690.25         |
| Closing Balance at 31.12.16         | <u>8979.31</u>  |
| Opening Balance 01.01.16            |                 |
| Current Account                     | 2516.45         |
| Savings Account                     | 8564.81         |
|                                     | 11081.26        |
| Net portion 2016                    | <u>-2101.95</u> |
|                                     | <u>8979.31</u>  |

**Expenses**

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Parish Share                  | 5068.00         |
| Electricity                   | 252.86          |
| Organ Service                 | 127.20          |
| NDBF                          | 714.00          |
| Norfolk Churches Trust        | 192.18          |
| Notice Boards                 | 30.00           |
| Copier                        | 195.29          |
| Donations                     | 100.00          |
| Deanery Synod2015/16          | 14.00           |
| Vicars Expenses               | 616.51          |
| Organist/Vergers Wedding Fees | 150.00          |
| Cleaner                       | 169.00          |
| Insurance                     | 3001.00         |
| Smartwater                    | 168.00          |
| Seat Cushions (Mundham)       | 1028.26         |
| Churchyard Maintenance        | 22.58           |
| Secretary/Treas Expenses      | 38.95           |
| Childrens Society             | 45.75           |
| Repairs to Wallsafe           | 141.00          |
| Asbestos Survey               | 540.00          |
| Fire Check                    | 32.00           |
|                               | <u>12646.58</u> |

**Designated Funds**

**Mundham**

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Re: Late K Balls     | 720.00        |
| Anglian Water        | 750.00        |
|                      | 1470.00       |
| Less Seat Cushions   | -1028.56      |
| Less Notice Boards   | -192.18       |
| Less Wallsafe Repair | -141.00       |
| Total Remaining      | <u>108.26</u> |

**Seething**

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Re: Late G Moore         | 1061.50        |
| Re: Late Major Le Coq    | 871.10         |
| Less Donation Hymn Books | -50.00         |
|                          | <u>1882.60</u> |