

St Margaret's Church, Kirstead

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

For the year ended 31st December 2017

Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Lynn Chapman
The Vicarage
The Street
Brooke

Bank:

Natwest Bank
Bungay

Independent Examiner:

Lesley Hanner
Brooke
Norfolk

Introductory Letter

There seems so often to be a tightrope to walk in our journey as the Church in the villages that we serve. We need to keep our balance as we seek to maintain the longstanding things we enjoy and cherish and look for new ways to interpret and share our faith. At the same time we need to balance the reality of our falling numbers and increasing average age with our ambition to be active in worship and in service. We have not fallen off yet, but there are times when the other side seems a long way off and the drop beneath us feels far below. Hopefully this report will help us to celebrate all that we have achieved and will inspire us to go on journeying as God's people in this place.

Guided by our Growth Plan we tried some new things in 2017. Following much consultation a new Sunday morning service was introduced in the Autumn – "Morning Worship". Using contemporary language, it seeks to be inclusive and participatory. The service may include Holy Communion and we have tried it both with and without. It has been experimented with in three of our churches. There are very mixed feelings, particularly among those of us who like the familiarity of our more traditional forms of worship. During 2018 we will be reviewing the service again and making decisions about its use in the future.

Growing in discipleship encouraged us to attempt to form links with those have been baptised in the Benefice in recent years, particularly those under seven and their families. Barney Bear moved into the Vicarage and during the year he invited children and their families to attend his summer picnic and a Christmas party. Great fun was had by all and we hope to extend this work during 2018.

We were delighted to re-hang the bells at Brooke and these rang out in May when the Bishop of Norwich came to rededicate them to the glory of God. The lottery funding involved encouraged us to work with the community and as part of this we created a Children's trail and Family trail for St Peter's Church. We improved our welcome in the other churches of the Benefice too, with new notices and a good tidy up of publications and information. This is a work in progress, but it has been gratifying to read numerous complimentary entries in our visitors' books.

Links to the local community are very important to us and we continued during the year to provide for and support the various community lunches and cafes that we have contact with. Some of our churches were also venues for concerts, which were well attended and we organised talks, concerts and meals in our village halls, which were well attended by members of our communities. As Vicar I continue to maintain links with our primary schools, with the Brooke Adventurers Football team and with our local uniformed organisations. We were delighted to welcome the Beavers and Cubs to our Mothering Sunday worship in March and I have been invited to work with the Beavers on several other occasions through the year.

Without the work of our various Friends groups our churches would not be able to function as they do. During the year mammoth fundraising efforts took place at Brooke, Kirstead and Seething, providing entertainment and an opportunity to build community, whilst raising much needed funds. A car treasure hunt at Thwaite provided in much the same way. This is a good opportunity to thank all those who belong to our Friends groups and those who support their work.

To return to the image of the tightrope: the high wire performer soon learns not to look down but to fix their gaze on their destination. This should perhaps remind us all of our need to fix our eyes on Jesus as we travel on his way. At the heart of all that has taken place in the last year has been a bedrock of faithful prayer and of careful discernment of where we are being called next. It is vital that we continue with this, remembering our own need to grow as Christians which runs alongside our calling to take the good news of God's love to the world.

The coming year will once more bring challenges and we will need to seek the point of balance again and again. I hope and pray that we will do so firm in the knowledge that God holds us in the palm of his hand and that when we set our eyes, and our hearts, on him we cannot fall or fail.

*The Reverend Lynn Chapman
Priest-in-Charge
January 2018*

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 Kirstead, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership in 2017:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Lynn Chapman	
Churchwarden	Vacant	
Elected Members	Mr Andrew Behag	
	Mr Stuart Dyer	(Until May 2017)
	Dr Christopher Kemp	
	Mr Cliff Whatrup	Treasurer

At the time of the Annual Meeting in 2017 there were 23 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance was 7. There were 0 baptisms, 1 wedding, and 4 funerals (including cremations) during the year 2017.

The PCC met 4 times during the year. The following were key matters of business:

- Discussion of financial situation and the payment of Parish Share
- The completion of “immediate” work required by the quinquennial inspection
- Discussion of the state of the porch and chancel roof and planning for repairs
- Planning for Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Services, including publicity and refreshments
- Review of Safeguarding policy, Health and Safety policy and Risk Assessment
- Discussion and acceptance of the Committed to Growth Plan for the Benefice
- Discussion of worship provision and services in the parish

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

Our meeting in February was held at St Marys Junior School, Long Stratton. We welcomed our new Rural dean, The Rev Heather Wilcox. She explained that Lynn Chapman will take responsibility for Deanery synod matters. We had a workshop session reflecting on our previous experiences of synod and following this we went into small groups to discuss our hopes for the deanery in the next three years.

In June we met at St Peters Brooke, after the usual business we had a presentation on “What does it mean to be in a deanery in 2017?” The planned speaker was unable to attend so Lynn Chapman presented some information on the history of deaneries and their intended purpose.

The Deanery Walk, Tea and Evening worship took place at St. Michael and All Angels, Bunwell on Sunday 30th July. This was a nice occasion and was very much enjoyed by those who went.

In October we met at St Marys Church, Saxlingham. Here we took part in a workshop called Mapping The Deanery. This involved us mapping out what we in our benefice had to offer the deanery.

At each meeting the Synod closed with a short act of worship.

Rosemary Sanford

Fabric

In the early part of the year work was carried out by Andrew Crisp to complete the repairs listed in the Quinquennial inspection as "immediate". The gutters and drains were cleared and the hopper on the tower was cleaned out. Some broken gutters were replaced. The parish was grateful for financial gifts which made this work possible.

A plan was put in place for investigations into work needed on the porch and the chancel roof.

The churchyard shed was re-felted and a new padlock provided. Thanks go to Mr John Ash for this work.

Some maintenance of the churchyard was undertaken by the Hopkins family.

*Revd Lynn Chapman
Priest-in-Charge*

Other Church Activities

The Friends of Kirstead Church

The Friends of Kirstead Church held their bi-annual art exhibition at the church in July. They kindly donated proceeds to the church, to be spent on the up-keep of the fabric.

Finance Report

Overall 2017 was a good year. Several large donations boosted funds and these have been set aside to be spent on the fabric of the church. The Friends of Kirstead Church made a significant donation following their bi-annual art exhibition and they have asked that this too be spent on the fabric. Giving was up slightly and there was a rise in Gift Aid claimed. Several funerals also meant that income from fees rose over the year. The parish share was paid in full and the year ended with a surplus of £14,000 (£13,00) of which is for the maintenance of the fabric.

Looking ahead to 2018 the reduction in the number of services is likely to mean a reduction in giving. Current standing orders match regular outgoings, but will not do so if costs rise. A fundraising event is being considered.

Cliff Whatrup: Treasurer

**KIRSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017**

<u>2015</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
3302	Gift Aid and GASDS	3172	3438
960	Donations	1690	13607
2035	Fund Raising	28	2446
790	Tax Recovered	1542	816
2	Bank Interest	0	1
0	Legacy	0	0
876	Fees	1026	1741
71	Sundries	0	84
<u>8035</u>		<u>7458</u>	<u>22133</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>			
3600	Parish Share	3557	3604
505	Rectors Expenses	607	644
722	Insurance	799	841
296	Light & Heat	177	222
3985	Upkeep Church fabric/organ	1076	758
203	Upkeep of Churchyard	203	0
685	Fund Raising Expenses	0	1064
338	Apportionment of Fees	304	530
57	Special causes	10	139
247	Sundries	264	310
<u>10636</u>		<u>6996</u>	<u>8112</u>
<u>-2601</u>	Total receipts in excess of payments	<u>462</u>	<u>14021</u>
 <u>BALANCES TO DATE</u>			
<u>31.12.15</u>		<u>31.12.16</u>	<u>31.12.17</u>
7345	General Fund as at beginning of year	4744	5206
-2601	Plus/less payments over receipts	462	14021
<u>4744</u>		<u>5206</u>	<u>19227</u>
1198	Cash at Bank Capital Reserve	1199	15512
3510	Cash at Bank Current Account	3988	3659
15	Cash in Hand	19	133
93	Credits not yet cashed	0	130
-73	Less unrepresented cheques	0	-76
<u>4744</u>		<u>5206</u>	<u>19226</u>

The above has been prepared from the books & records of the Council and is in accordance therewith.

Date 20/1/18

Treasurer [Signature]

Date 30/1/18

Independent Examiner [Signature]