

Mundham with Seething

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:

Barclays Bank
Loddon

Independent Examiner:

Neil Stone

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 Mundham with Seething, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership in 2017:

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 Mrs Judy Baldwin Lady Caroline Egerton (From Sept. 2017)
Secretary	Mrs Judy Baldwin
Treasurer	Mrs Judy Baldwin

At the time of the Annual Meeting in 2017 there were 17 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance was 11. There were 2 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 4 funerals (including cremations) during the year 2017.

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

- Worship patterns over the year.
- Committed to growth.
- Finance and fundraising
- Buildings and maintenance

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 2017

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 (Brooke Deanery Synod Rep)

Fabric report

St Peter's, Mundham

The wall safe in the church has been repaired and the asbestos survey has been carried out. Smartwater has been applied to all relevant outside pipes and gutters. Tiles have been replaced and drains cleared, hedges and paths have been kept tidy through the year and a new tap has been fitted to the water tank at the rear of the church. The gate at the west end of the churchyard has been repaired and a new noticeboard has been erected at the east end of the churchyard. A new kitchen unit has been given and installed in the vestry, also a vacuum cleaner has been donated to the church.

We are awaiting the installation of a new electricity meter.

Gillian Balls: Churchwarden

St Margaret and St Remigius, Seething

This year we have repaired and repainted the west vestry door and also painted all the woodwork and gutters on the vestry. Loose plaster, which was in danger of falling over the south west window has been removed. The loose ceiling board in the vestry has been repaired.

The standard light in the churchyard has been repainted and the glass cleaned. The church is checked and cleaned regularly.

Ann Garnham: Fabric Officer

Other Church Activities

Friends of Seething Church

2017 is the tenth anniversary of the Friends of Seething Church. It has been a busy ten years and we finish the year under review with £9000 in the bank.

We held two events during the year. The first was a demonstration by Kate Barmby (a Great British Bake Off contender) on how to make a bread plait. It was a great success which added £250 to the funds and people came from surrounding villages. There were many requests for other similar events and we are hoping to address this in 2018.

The second was our Annual Christmas Fair. This was, as usual, well attended and again we had many people from outside our village. We made over £900. Sylvie Ireland, a member of our Committee, had had to retire because of ill health and we really missed her professional help with cakes, jams etc. Nevertheless, everyone else stepped in so we managed to put on a good show.

The big news of the year is that at last we are able to get on with an approach to the National Lottery to help with the costs of conservation of our wall paintings. Andrea Kirkham, the conservator has been back to see if they have suffered in the four years since she was last here and we await her report. Once we have that, we can get on with our application.

Once again the Friends would like to thank everyone for their support and look forward to an interesting and successful year ahead.

Caroline Egerton

Financial report 2017

It has been a very difficult financial year for the churches with only £3400.00 of the Parish Share being paid this leaving a shortfall of £2232.00. A letter was sent to the Diocese explaining that the full amount could not be paid. £3000.00 was transferred from the BPA account and money from the designated funds was included in this and paid for the pew cushions at Seething Church. At the 31st December the churches have a balance of £6647.19 available for their use. The designated funds for Mundham are £42.26 and Seething £685.75. The insurance for the two churches this year was £2888.96. The Community Lunches for 2017 raised £540.00 and this is very much appreciated also the fund raising for the year was £643.53.

**Balance Sheet 01.01.17 -
31.12.17**

Income

Planned Giving	1592.00
Collections	1750.34
Community Lunches	540.00
Carol Singing	71.22
Weddings etc	904.00
Verger's/Organist Fees Wedding	330.00
Donations	65.00
Wall Safe	105.52
Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride	128.01
Newsletter Donations	65.00
Bequest from Major J Le Coq	1000.00
Seething PC Donation Church Yard	300.00
Mundham PC Donation Church Y	50.00
Fund Raising	643.53
Funerals Etc	1591.00
HMRC Gift Aid	452.75
Newsletter Adverts	120.00
	<u>9708.37</u>
BPA Transfers	<u>3000.00</u>
	<u>12708.37</u>
Balance B/Fwd	410.22
Income to 31.12.17	12708.37
	-
Expenses to 31.12.17	<u>11313.50</u>
	1805.09
Plus O/S Cheques 200164/65	61.00
Less O/S Lodgements 200355	<u>-200.00</u>
	1666.09
	<u>1666.09</u>
Bank Statement at 31.12.17	1666.09
BPA Account at 01.01.17	8569.09
Less transfers to Current Acc	-3000.00
Plus Interest	<u>1.02</u>
	5570.11
	<u>5570.11</u>
Currant Acc at 31.12.17	1666.09
Less O/S Cheques	-61.00
Plus O/S Lodgements	200.00
BPA Account	5570.11
Less Designated Fund	<u>-728.01</u>
Funds Available at 31.12.17	<u>6647.19</u>

Expenses

Parish Share	3400.00
Electricity	304.68
Organ Service	130.80
NDBF	717.00
Cleaner	108.00
Vergers/Organist Fee Weddings	300.00
Norfolk Churches Trust	30.00
Music Licence Fee	85.86
Petrol for Mower/Paint etc	168.42
Copier Expenses etc	158.27
Vicars Expenses	621.85
Deanery Synod	7.00
Insurance	2888.96
Baptism Bibles	68.81
Display Material	52.97
Pew Cushions Seething Church	2209.88
Fire Extinguishers service	36.00
Donation Christian Aid	<u>25.00</u>
	11313.50

Designated Funds

Mundham

Re: Late K Balls	108.26
Less Display Material	-26.00
Less Pew Cushions	<u>-40.00</u>
	42.26

Seething

Re: Late G Moore	1061.50
Re: Late Major J Le Coq	871.10
Bequest Late Major J Le Coq	1000.00
Less Donation for Hymn Books	-50.00
Less Display Material	-26.97
Less Pew Cushions	-2209.88
Adj: Pew Cushion Mundham	<u>40.00</u>
Less Pew Cushions	685.75