

The Brooke Benefice

St Peter's Church, Brooke

St Margaret's Church, Kirstead

St Peter's Church, Mundham with

St Margaret and St Remigius Church, Seething

St Mary's Church, Thwaite St Mary

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Councils

For the year ended 31st December 2018

Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Lynn Chapman

The Vicarage

The Street

Brooke

Introductory Letter

2018 in the Brooke Benefice seemed to pass by in a moment. Events began with a wonderful evening of "Carols and Ale" at Brooke to mark Twelfth Night and concluded with our celebration of Christmas.

Our main focus during the year was worship and we spent some time making adjustments to times, venues and styles of worship in an attempt to make it possible for all our churches to be used regularly and for services to be accessible to all. As set out in our Committed to Growth Plan, we continued to work on our new less formal Holy Communion service, "Morning Worship +", particularly in Brooke where we overcame the layout of the church and found ways to meet together around the Lord's Table. At Seething we introduced "Songs of Praise" for summer evenings and enjoyed sharing favourite hymns with a wide group of friends. In May we held our first "Celebration of Marriage" and invited couples who have been married in the Benefice, several of whom attended, along with others who wished to give thanks for their marriages.

Financial matters were a great concern across the Benefice during the year and there were heroic efforts to raise funds both for our commitment to Parish Share and taking responsibility for the costs of ministry in the Benefice, and to the maintenance of our buildings. Huge thanks go to all those, too numerous to mention here, who gave of their time and skills to raise money. Along with the more traditional coffee mornings note should be given to Brooke's wonderful Flower Festival in May, our World War One Commemoration evening of words, music and supper in November and to the workshops that were held to "Countdown to Christmas". Our need to fund raise will not go away and will continue to be a focus in 2019.

We are fortunate to have mainly sound buildings and so most of these needed only minor repairs during the year. Unfortunately St Margaret's at Kirstead is not in such a good state and needs major works to the chancel roof and the porch. An appeal for funds was launched at the Carol Service and through the dedication of PCC members some grants have already been awarded to help with this. The collection of the necessary finances will continue to be an uphill venture through the coming year but it is to be hoped that the value of the building will be recognised and that the local community will join in ensuring that this vital work is carried out.

Our churches continued to play an important part in the lives of our villages during the year, maintaining links with both schools, supporting village cafes and community lunches and with church members involved in the many organisations that run locally. Sadly, we were also involved in providing funerals for residents of our villages and in supporting bereaved family and friends. It is important that we never underestimate the value of our work in this area, as the many cards and letters of appreciation that make their way to the Vicarage following a bereavement testify. People value the support and the prayers that we are able to offer them.

Being the Body of Christ in our Benefice remains a challenge to all of us, especially when numbers seem to be dwindling and support and interest from those who do not worship regularly appears to be in decline. It may be that the coming year needs to be for us a time to take stock, to rest and to pray, being open all the time to God's mission for our villages and to the part that we are being called to play in bringing it about. The contents of this report show just how richly we have been blessed by God in all that has happened here over the year and what abundance of grace and love has been poured out among us and shared between us. May that blessing continue as we move forward together into whatever 2019 has in store for us.

*The Reverend Lynn Chapman
Priest-in-Charge
January 2019*

The Parochial Church Councils

The Parochial Church Councils have the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting across the Brooke Benefice, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership in 2018:

Brooke:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Lynn Chapman	
Reader	Mr John Ash	Fabric Officer
Churchwardens	Mrs Rosemary Sanford Mrs Daphne Warman	
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mr David Sanford Mrs Rosemary Sanford Mrs Daphne Warman	
Elected Members	Mr Keith Joad Mrs Christina Jones Miss Diane Marshall Mr Brian Orland Mrs Alison Rhodes Mr David Sanford Mrs Patricia Strachan Mr Philip Strachan Mrs Gwyneth Watson Mr Kenneth Warman Mr Charles Wilde Mrs Diana Wilde	Treasurer Verger Secretary Chair Friends of St Peter's Lay Chair

Kirstead:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Lynn Chapman	
Churchwarden	<i>Vacant</i>	
Elected Members	Mr Andrew Behagg Miss Gillian Green Dr Christopher Kemp Mr Cliff Whatrup	(from May 2018) Treasurer

Mundham with Seething:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Lynn Chapman	
Churchwardens	Mrs Gillian Balls Mrs Ann Garnham Mrs Margaret Key	(until May 2018)
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mrs Margaret Eastham	
Elected Members	Mrs Jilly Le Coq Mrs Ann Rudd Mrs Judy Baldwin Lady Caroline Egerton	Secretary and Treasurer

Thwaite St Mary:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Lynn Chapman	
Churchwarden	Mrs Mavin Shulver	Treasurer
Elected Members	Mrs Marion Barwick Mr Tom Edwards Mr Jim Hadingham Mrs Janet Hadingham Mrs Valerie Healy Mrs Su Mahon	Fabric Officer Lay Chair Secretary

Benefice Statistics:

	Brooke	Kirstead	Mundham with Seething	Thwaite St Mary
Number of Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll at the Annual Meeting in 2018	96	23	17	18
Average attendance during 2018	27	6	13	14
Baptisms in 2018	1	-	1	-
Marriages in 2018	1	-	1	1
Funerals (including cremations) in 2018	14	-	9	1

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

Safeguarding:

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Laura Cowan

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding by facilitating the following:

- The adoption and implementation of the House of Bishops' Policy and procedures on safeguarding children and adults who may be vulnerable for the Benefice. The policy is updated annually, signed and displayed in each church.
- A Benefice Safeguarding Officer has been appointed to cover the five Parishes in the Brooke benefice.
- Training and DBS checks for all clergy, Churchwardens and Benefice Safeguarding Officer have taken place.
- We have had no allegations or suspicions of abuse reported this year.
- All records are stored safely and securely in a locked cabinet in the Incumbent's office in the Vicarage.
- NSPCC Safer recruitment training has been undertaken by the Benefice Safeguarding Officer and the Incumbent.

Progress:

- Regular meetings to discuss safeguarding happen.
- An audit of procedures has taken place and actions where necessary have taken place.
- All training has been updated as necessary.

Next stages:

- Risk assess any new activities.
- Any remaining Church officers or PCC members to undertake online Safeguarding training and DBS checks.
- Any new volunteers and PCC employees in regular contact with children and vulnerable adults to be appointed in accordance with Diocesan safer recruitment guidelines.

Laura Cowan

Secretary's Reports:

Brooke:

The PCC met four times during the year, including a joint meeting with the other PCCs of the Benefice to consider common issues, in particular policies and procedures governing health and safety and safeguarding. Reports and papers submitted by the Officers and PCC representatives continue to inform most of the business discussed and implemented by the PCC. All PCC meetings and any decisions are recorded in the Minutes of each meeting. Among the many issues considered and addressed in 2018, significant items to note include:

Committed to Growth Initiative: the three key facets of this initiative - Growth in Discipleship, in Service, and in Numbers - have been reviewed and continue to influence change and innovation in what we do. For example, it was agreed that from January, 2019, the 'Morning Worship with Holy Communion' service would be a joint one between St. Peter's, Brooke, and St. Margaret's, Kirstead, alternating between the two churches. One of our regular Cafe Churches had a special focus on nature and conservation following a successful evening 'St. Peter's by Dusk' organised in conjunction with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (see below) and there will be more joint services with the Brooke Methodist congregation during 2019;

Finance: the PCC has received and reviewed the regular reports on the financial position, prepared by the Treasurer;

Fund-raising: a number of fund-raising events were held during the year, including: 'Singing in the New Year' at Epiphany; a flower festival in May ('Celebrating Famous People'); 'Songs from the Shows', (also in May, for Christian Aid); a summer afternoon tea; an event in November 'Merry it was to laugh there....' to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War; and in December, a 'Countdown to Christmas'. These were all well-supported and very well-received and were in addition to the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of St. Peter's;

Gifts: as reported in the 2017 report, gifts, including legacies, which were used to install new lighting in the Chancel and Chancel arch and to purchase a ciborium, a wafer box, a home communion set and a new lectern bible, have all now been dedicated in the presence of family members or representatives and are in use;

Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies and the **Risk Assessment** register were updated and renewed and two new policies, one governing **Privacy** (in the light of the new Data Protection laws) and the other governing the hire of the Church Room (**Premises User Policy**) were approved. A joint meeting with the other PCCs in the Benefice was held to consider Benefice-wide matters, such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies and it is envisaged that this approach will continue in the future;

Alison Rhodes

Kirstead:

The PCC met five times during the year, sharing two meetings with other PCC's in the Benefice. At these shared meetings the items of business were: policies (including the introduction of GDPR and new Safeguarding measures), worship patterns across the Benefice and the distribution of responsibility for the Parish Share.

At other meetings the main business was the fabric of the church, finances and falling attendance. Patterns of worship were also discussed and plans made for Harvest and Christmas services. Following thefts from the church in the early part of the year, security was also given some attention.

Revd Lynn Chapman

Mundham with Seething:

There were five PCC meetings in the year, two of which were shared with other PCCs in the Benefice. The main business conducted was:

- Declining parish finances and how to boost these.
- Policies, including GDPR and Safeguarding.
- Worship patterns – including the introduction of “Songs of Praise” in the summer and preparations for the 9am Communion service to move out of St Margaret’s Church in the winter months.
- The Friends of Seething Church project to preserve the wall paintings.
- Plans for fundraising in 2019.

Judy Baldwin

Thwaite St Mary:

The PCC are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Shulver for hosting most of our meetings at their home. In February we met at Mr and Mrs Healy for our first PCC meeting. We adopted the accounts which Mrs Shulver our treasurer had compiled and were audited by Mr Bowes. The Annual report had been circulated and this was accepted. The PCC members had to fill in a safeguarding form, this for the Data Protection Law. All were in favour of using the Common Prayer book for Holy Communion. The PCC joined other PCC members for a joint Benefice APCM at Brooke in March.

Mrs Shulver hosted a very successful coffee morning raising £178.32p . The church notice board will be moved after the front roadside hedge has been removed as unstable, and will be along the new fence line, which will be either a grass bank or a new hedge. The Brooke benefice held a joint PCC meeting in July. Matters discussed were the allocation of the Parish share, and whether each PCC were happy with the pattern of services in each church, we remain the same. Bangers and Mash supper was held the night before the Harvest festival and was successful, money raised was £322. Thanks to all involved.

WiSpire has now installed an aerial on the church tower roof, enabling the community to have better broadband. An annual fee will be received per annum to help pay for cost of electricity used.

The Carol service was very well attended, we had a new organist for the event, teenager Daniel who played and sang! After the service our traditional “The first day of Christmas” was sung with members taking part in each verse with much enthusiasm and hilarity. We then enjoyed a lovely buffet and wine, many thanks to all who made the evening such a success.

Thanks to all the PCC members for their input at our meetings.

Su Mahon

Treasurers' Reports:

Brooke:

A year of increasing costs and additional expenditure resulted in a deficit of £12,533. The Parish Share increased by £4,977, which was met in full. Churchyard maintenance of hedge cutting and tree removal cost £1,528 and refurbishing the Church Rooms incorporating window repairs, new chairs and carpet cost £2,806. The Church Rooms expenditure was offset by the sale of bench seating and a generous donation all totalling £650.

The low insurance figure for 2017 was due to a change to 12 monthly payments in 2018 and overall the premium was little changed. Fees from funerals and weddings showed a reduction of £3,137 bearing in mind that 2017 had been unusually high. Collections and regular giving envelopes reduced slightly but this was more than offset by an increase in standing order and Gift Aided donations. Donations, which vary widely year by year, showed a reduction of £6,916. It was agreed that there would not be a Gift Day in 2018 and instead a number of events were arranged. All were successful and drew a very creditable sum of £7,528. The organisers and helpers are to be congratulated because without continued fundraising, managing to meet our Parish Share allocation would prove very difficult.

Income from the monthly parish lunches remained unchanged at £650 and Friends of St Peter's subscriptions reduced by £71. The Parish Magazine continues to prosper with all advertising spaces taken up. The surplus of £459 is a little low due to the late receipt of advertisers cheques totalling £2,439, so the 2019 figure will appear a lot healthier.

The General Church Fund is now in deficit by £8,887, and the Church Fabric Fund has £33,492 represented by bank balances of £24,605. These balances should remain at this level to ensure that the PCC's obligations can be met in the future and indeed, over time, eliminate the General Church Fund deficit. In 2019 insurance premiums will be taken from the Church Fabric Fund to assist the General Fund.

The Bells Restoration Fund spent £923 during the year leaving a balance of £607. Finally, I would like to record my thanks to Lesley Hanner for auditing the accounts once again.

Keith Joad

Kirstead:

The 2018 budget forecast a deficit of £2,800.

In the event, total receipts were £7314 in 2018, 48% up on the budget. Giving fell by 4.3% to £3290 compared with 2017, this was expected given the change in service pattern and reduced number of services, and slightly up on budget. Regular giving via direct debit also reduced by a similar amount.

Gift Aid tax recovered was similar to 2017 at £806. Fees were down on 2017 at £393.

Following the PCC decision to start fund raising for much needed repairs to the chancel roof and porch, the total cost of the work was estimated by a firm of architects at £67,000 including VAT and 10% contingency for overrun. £11,000 was allocated towards the appeal from the restricted fund.

£2444 was raised in 2018, highlights being a £1500 grant from Allchurches Trust, and £878 received from a fund raising event held by the Friends of Kirstead Church. A further £6,500 was pledged by two other trusts subject to raising the required amount from other sources, however these are time limited (1 and 2 years). At year end, £18,500 has been raised in funds and pledges, leaving a target of £48,500 still to be raised.

Expenses:

Total expenses were £5001, in line with the budget.

Parish share paid was £2800, a shortfall of £1200 on the £4,000 level set by the Diocese and Benefice for 2018. The shortfall was agreed by the PCC to avoid the forecast deficit, considering the need to maintain adequate funds in the unrestricted parish account to remain solvent.

Cliff Whatrup

Mundham with Seething:

We have finished the financial year with a balance of £7362.00 in hand which is slightly up on last year although our expenditure was £382.00 above our income. We were quite unfortunate earlier in the year when we had some storm damage to Mundham Church and after the insurance claim this cost us £640.00. We paid £2400.00 of the Parish Share figure which was requested, but the request was approximately £6k so there was quite a large shortfall and after an appeal to the Diocese our figure has been reduced for 2019. The Insurance on the 2 churches for 2018/2019 was a few pounds short of £3k which was paid in the autumn. A cheque for £244.00 was sent to the British Legion this was the proceeds of the collection taken on Remembrance Sunday.

Judy Baldwin

Thwaite St Mary:

At the end of 2018 our balance was £8016. £1594 less than 2017. Thanks to Seething, Mundham and Thwaite St. Mary soup lunches we received £85 more than 2017. Our fund raising was down by £534 but we received £348 for a wedding and cremation. The parish Share went up by £451 for 2018 but has been reduced for 2019. Thanks are again expressed to all who support the church with monthly donations by Standing Orders.

Mavin Shulver

Fabric Reports:

Brooke:

This year has been busy as regards the churchyard. Brambles have been cleared from the north wall and ivy removed from gravestones. Ivy has also been removed from the gravestones on the north side adjacent to the house in Dovecote Close. The owner there has also removed the ivy from the garage wall which was rooted in the churchyard. The Blue Cypress trees on the north side behind the shed have been removed (they were at the end of their life) and that area will be levelled over the coming year.

The fabric of the church is generally in good order. The following work has been carried out in 2018:

- Replacing broken slate on nave roof (north side);
 - Replacing all light bulbs with LED lamps;
 - Lightning conductors and heaters serviced and tested; and
 - All gutters cleaned out in the autumn.

As stated previously, the church fabric is in a good condition (for its age) but on-going maintenance is necessary and repointing of the tower and repairing of cracks in the south nave and Chancel with required funds and grant of some £80,000 will be required. This is a medium-term project. In the short term, work is required to repair flaking plaster in the Chancel and north aisle and repoint the base of the outside wall to the North Aisle.

John Ash

Kirstead:

Following thefts from the church early in 2018 it was decided that the building will be kept locked when not in use. The necessary adjustments to the Insurance were made. Advice on security from the police was considered and put into place where financially and physically viable.

The replacement of the Chancel roof and the repair of the porch remain the main fabric items under consideration. During the year two architects were contacted and gave estimates of the cost of the work needed to undertake the repairs. At budget of £30,000 – £35,000 was settled on. Applications for grants were made and an appeal launched at the Carol Service.

During the year minor remedial works were carried out to gutters, drains and roofing tiles and light bulbs were replaced as necessary.

Revd Lynn Chapman

Mundham with Seething:

St Peter's : There have been no major problems at Mundham Church during this year. There was some storm damage to the roof above the front porch earlier in the year and this was repaired by Andrew Crisp. An insurance claim was made and part of the cost was covered by the claim.

The bats are still in residence so are creating a lot of mess in the Church. All the Christmas wreaths will be removed in February and the churchyard is looking very tidy at the present time.

Gillian Balls

St Margaret and St Remigius : This year we have removed loose plaster from over the south window in the chancel and lead has been reinstated to the west end of the nave adjacent to the tower.

The organ has been tuned and in good working order. The bell tower has been cleared of unnecessary clutter and the Church is checked on a regular basis.

Ann Garnham

Thwaite St Mary:

After many years we have finally had broadband aerials attached to the tower roof to provide broadband to the village and the surrounding area. This will provide a community service, and also an income for the church depending on how many people sign up. An annual fee will be received from the company to cover costs.

The fabric of the church remains in good order, with no problems appearing during the year. However in the churchyard the PCC have decided to remove the front roadside hedge, which has become too wide and unstable, and depending on how the boundary looks when the hedge has been removed, we may well plant another hedge or some sort of fencing. In connection with this the church notice board, which is hidden from view under the yew tree, will be positioned along the new hedge line.

As always the PCC is very grateful to the wider community for mowing and trimming the churchyard and also cleaning the church.

Tom Edwards

Reader's Report 2018:

I have enjoyed a good working relationship with Lynn and value this shared ministry to the Benefice.

Services taken during the year are as follows:

Services taken alone: 8

Services shared: 28

Sermons preached: 10

Funerals taken: 2 (+4 shared+ 2 burial of ashes)

Sacrament taken to the sick/housebound: 2

In addition to services, I normally lead the monthly prayer and meditation group and am part of the 'Open the Book' team. I also go to the Village Hall Café which I consider as part of my ministry to the Village.

I have attended Bishops' Day, Readers' Day and Wardens' Day during 2018 and the one-day Baptism Matters course. They were all very good, being interesting and informative and helpful. I also represented Depwade Deanery Readers at Bishop Graham's farewell service.

In my role as Sub Warden for Norfolk South, I held one meeting in the Autumn with about 10 Readers/ PTOs attending. I also attended Readers Committee meetings, Selection Day and the Central Readers Council consultation conference in London.

My working agreement with Lynn was reviewed in the Autumn.

John Ash

Depwade Deanery Synod Report 2018:

Depwade Deanery Synod met three times in 2018.

On 12th April, we met at St Mary's Church, Long Stratton. After the usual business we were given a presentation on the work of Christian Aid. Entitled 'No one should get left behind', it showed us some of the needs, particularly of refugees, that Christian Aid meets through its work with local partners.

On 18th July, we met at St Michael and All Angels Church, Bunwell, where we had a workshop on "the challenges of being Church in rural communities".

The meeting on October 30th was held at Long Stratton Junior School. The theme carried on from our previous meeting as we had to take resources from our church showing things we did in our parish and put together a table display i.e. posters of our events, church lunches, Barney Bear etc.

A Deanery walk, tea and evensong was held again at St Margaret's Church, Topcroft.

Rosemary Sanford

Other Church Activities:

Brooke:

Bell-ringing

During 2018, bell-ringing at Brooke has gone from strength to strength. Our newest ringers, (father and 12-year old sons) ring regularly at Shotesham and Swaffham and have attended training sessions at Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre. One of the boys has also rung two quarter peals.

This injection of enthusiasm has led to the installation of two dumb bells and a simulator at Brooke, where we can practise ringing on eight bells and, with the bells tied, can teach new recruits in silence. Anyone who wishes to view the dumb bells should contact John Ash to arrange a visit. There is only one ladder to climb!

Listeners may have noticed that our ringing has recently sounded a little different. Our standard repertoire now includes Devon-style call changes where the bells change order every hand-stroke. From a seasoned bell-ringer's perspective, this is a little like musical chairs!

We ring for most Sunday services and, for practice, on Thursday evenings from 7.30 until 9pm. Anyone wishing to have a go is most welcome to join us.

Dawn Pullen

Brooke Adventurers Football Club

Summer 2018 was the end of a really exciting season for the Brooke Adventurers Football Club with success at cup and league level throughout the different teams. The U14s won the Christian Football League's trophy for "Fair Play"; which is a testament to the sportsman-like behaviour and team work on and off the field.

The new season has also started well with examples of good sportsmanship, excellent team playing, good play and lots of goals.

We are as always grateful for the coaches from each of the teams who do so much to ensure that games run smoothly. Thank you also to all the parents who travel the length and breadth of the county to support the players.

Joanna Longe

Brooke and Kirstead Parish Magazine

I am very grateful to all involved for ensuring that the magazine goes out on time. Ruth Dodds and Linda Skepelhorn continue to take it in turns to collate the edited copy that I pass on to them. John Ash has joined the proof-readers. Rachel Brown collects the printed magazines from County Hall and delivers them to the distributors. One of our distributors has retired and a new person recruited. Maria Andrew continues to handle the advertising. A real team effort!

More photographs are being collected to add interest, and the occasional local photo is used for the front cover. I should welcome more, suitable, front cover photographs, to give the magazine a greater local feel.

As well as Brooke and Kirstead news, we include items from Alpington and Bergh Apton, space permitting.

I am very pleased to have included items from Brooke School in the last two editions and hope to feature more school news over the coming year.

Stephanie Ash

Brooke Benefice Website

The website has once again attracted an increased number of visits with 33,832 recorded, more than doubling last year's figure. Visits peaked during August to October, reflecting interest in the events offered. More people should be encouraged to sign up for email updates, which give notification of future events, and hopefully, this will result in events and services being even better attended.

The cost of hosting the website was unchanged at £120 per annum.

We should continue to promote the website at every opportunity in an effort to attract a wider age range to participate in all that we offer across the Benefice.

Keith Joad

Brooke VC CE Primary School

Having begun the year with no Head Teacher the governors were delighted to appoint Mr Alex Griffiths to the post in late February. He joined the school at the beginning of June and was welcomed at a Commissioning service at St Peter's Church. Under his direction the school interior has been redecorated and many new ideas are beginning to flourish.

Ofsted came to inspect the school in June and rated it "Good", a rating that is not easy to achieve with the current criteria. Credit must go to all staff and students who work together to keep the school at this level and to further its development. All eyes are set on "Outstanding" at the next inspection.

Sadly a staffing adjustment led to some long-standing staff members leaving at the end of the school year. Their contribution was recognised at the end of term church service. In September Miss Saunders joined as full-time teacher to Jay class and she was welcomed, along with the new Reception children at a special service in school at the beginning of term.

The school continues to forge strong links with the church in Brooke, with the Vicar regularly visiting and remaining as a Foundation Governor and visits from other church members during the week to help with collective worship, music, reading and a variety of other activities.

Revd Lynn Chapman

Choir

As usual, thanks are due to the choir members for their loyalty during the past year, not only for singing at services, but also at village events such as the harvest supper and carols in the village hall, to which the wider community come. Not many churches have a choir which sings at nearly all of the services through the year, and which sings such a wide range of music. I believe that St Peter's is fortunate to have such an expert group of singers and such a high standard of music.

We sang, as usual, in the Royal School of Church Music Festival Service at Norwich Cathedral; an inspiring service with 250 singers, giving us the chance to sing anthems which we could not do on our own. We have, as I am sure you know, lots of sopranos and altos, but are still seriously short of tenor and bass parts, a trend seen in many choirs.

My thanks must also go to Alison Rhodes for her help with playing the organ.

Brian Orland

Christian Aid Week 2018

Christian Aid Week took place in May, as usual. In addition to gift envelopes, a fund-raising event 'Songs from the Shows' was held at St. Peter's on 18th May. It was a very enjoyable evening, with the audience joining in well-known songs with great enthusiasm. A magnificent total of £1282.44 (including Gift Aid) was raised. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed in any way.

Gwyneth Watson

St Peter's Churchyard

The PCC is responsible for churchyard strategy as a whole, with a key aim of ensuring that the churchyard is tidy and welcoming with well-managed conservation areas.

During the year, the grass-cutting regime has continued, and a new conservation area has been set up with clear marker posts delineating the area. This area has proved to be very useful on school visit days.

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust led two days of visits by the children of the top class of Brooke Primary School, looking into (1) the heritage of the churchyard, walls and gravestones, and the plant life which colonises them - lichens and plants which grow on walls; (2) animal life - insects, butterflies, mammals, birds, and signs of animal life even if the animal in question cannot be seen; (3) plant life - grass, flowers, trees. A display was put at the back of the church of the children's work on that day.

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust also set up "St Peter's By Dusk". There was a range of activities for people to take part in: owl pellet dissection and natural history items, a mini-beast hunt, bat craft activities including making a bat box and a "creatures of the night" quiz, badge-making, paper potters and wildlife gardening display and information. Although less well attended than our previous daytime wildlife event, this evening event still attracted 45 people. We look forward to more cooperation with the Wildlife Trust.

The Churchyard is a wonderful place to come and see the wonders of nature and we need to look after it and protect it.

Brian Orland

Community Lunches 2018

We continue to provide soup lunches on the second Friday of the month, although numbers have fluctuated during the year. However, the lunches are very much enjoyed by those who attend and there is always a cheerful buzz in the room. So much so, that people are now often loath to leave. Now that the Church Room has been refurbished, it will be even more comfortable for 2019.

Daphne Warman

Friends of St. Peter's

Our membership now stands at 121 producing an income of £721. Events during the year raised the following amounts:

Easter Coffee morning: £401
Summer lunch: £803
Christmas Coffee Morning: £401

resulting in a magnificent total of £2326.

Our thanks go to all who hosted these events on the Friends' behalf and for the wonderful support shown.

David Sanford

Ladies Evening Group (LEGS)

2018 has been a challenging year for LEGs and although we have continued to meet monthly in the Village Hall and have enjoyed a variety of speakers, the numbers attending those monthly meetings has continued to dwindle. Regrettably, we had to cancel our planned outing to Anglesey Abbey in July, our Summer Lunch fund-raiser in August and a further fund-raising event in November due to a lack of interest to make these events financially viable, although the Coffee Morning organised in June did raise funds for our chosen charity.

The Committee has debated long and hard regarding the future of LEGs and both understand and respect the original concept of the group that began in the Vicarage in 1984, but have become aware that in its present format it cannot survive and flourish in 2019. Thus, the present Committee has taken the difficult decision to resign en-bloc at the AGM in January.

But... as the saying goes 'The darkest hour is just before dawn' and we envisage a new, informal and social group being created which will be more suited to the current situation. Hopefully the new dawn will be the Brooke Social Group which will continue to meet monthly with a variety of activities.

There will be no Committee, no membership fee, and members will be able to choose to join in with an event that suits them. Many will be daytime outings for lunch, coffee, walks, museum/gallery/cinema/theatre visits. The present Committee has formed a programme to 'kick-start' the Group and each month will be organised by a different member.

As we are formally closing LEGs we have decided to donate the remains of our funds to charity. We have sent a cheque to The Magdalene Trust for £500 and a cheque for £114 to St. Peter's Church.

All of us value the friendship and support that LEGs has provided over the years and hope that the starting of Brooke Social Group will be just as successful.

My thanks go to all the members of the Committee for their tireless support during this difficult year and to the Revd Lynn Chapman for her understanding and her positive and practical advice.

We hope to see members for lunch in the King's Head on 27th February and at the Thanksgiving Service in the Church on 28th April at 3:00pm.

Patricia Shearing

Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

As usual, the Bike Ride took place on the second Saturday in September. Despite being widely advertised, we had no cyclists from Brooke taking part for the first time since the 'ride' started over 30 years ago. However, some eager stalwarts took a car trip and raised over £300 in sponsorship (including gift aid). They had an enjoyable day out visiting churches further afield that are not always open daily. So, a big thank you to them. The money raised will be shared equally between the Norfolk Churches Trust and St Peter's.

St Peter's was stewarded as usual to welcome visiting cyclists and provide refreshments. These were much appreciated, so a big thank you also to the Church-sitters.

Ruth Dodds

Norwich Food Bank

Support for the Foodbank goes from strength to strength. After the overwhelming success of the Reverse Advent Calendar challenge in 2017, a new summer challenge was suggested by the Foodbank administrators in order to reduce pressure at the warehouse in the run-up to Christmas. We therefore devised the idea of the August Summer Holiday Foodbank Race. Parishioners enthusiastically rose to the challenge and each of the five most-needed items passed the finishing line and exceeded the initial target. Thanks go to Lynn for creating the 'race track' and to everyone for contributing so generously.

Since then, regular donations continue with seemingly renewed vigour. The Harvest gifts from St Peter's, the Methodist Church, Kirstead Church and Brooke School were appreciated, as were the Christmas treats, mostly received by the requested date, and taken to the warehouse in good time.

Thank you to everyone and please keep up the good work.

Ruth Dodds

Open the Book

In July 2018, the OTB Team completed the fourth and final year of the OTB series of Bible stories. The fourth year focussed on 'Christian Values' (such as Friendship; Hope; Forgiveness; Justice; and Love) with each value being illustrated by a story from the old Testament and one from the New. In September, we returned to the very beginning, with the vivid stories of creation and of Adam and Eve and are now about half-way through the first year. Some of the older children may remember these stories, but the younger ones will be hearing and seeing them for the first time. As in previous years, we continue to involve the children as active participants, whether this be as actors, prop-makers and/or operators or as providers of some spectacular sound effects.

A prayer and the Lord's prayer led by the older pupils precede and conclude the OTB presentation and we also try to include an appropriate song.

Our core team comprises six members, with two others on 'stand-by'. We should very much welcome more volunteers so that 'OTB' can continue bringing to life the wonderful stories to future pupils of Brooke School.

Alison Rhodes

Kirstead:

The Friends of Kirstead Church

This year our small but dedicated and enthusiastic group organised a Visit and Vintage Tea at Kirstead Hall on the 31st August. This event was a sell-out, the sun shone and was much enjoyed by all. £833.50 was raised including an anonymous donation of £50.00.

We also had two painting groups at the Hall. On the 28th June Pat Strachan's Art group kindly donated £45.00. On the 24th August The Norfolk and Norwich Art Group also donated £45.00. Each group spent the day painting different aspects of the house and grounds.

The Friends raised £923.50 for the Fabric of the Church.

Judy Murphy

Mundham with Seething:

The Friends of Seething Church

The Friends finished the year with £9,212.78 in the bank. The only income this year derived from the Giant Book Fair which was held in the Autumn and which took the place of our Annual Autumn Fair. The Village Commemoration of the end of the First World War fell on the weekend when our Fair would normally be held.

The Giant Book Fair raised £521.63 with donations amounting to £95. This was a new departure for the Friends and we were inundated with books. Many people who came who were not from our villages and all seemed to enjoy themselves, but for the Committee it was surprisingly hard work. We are grateful to those who disposed of the books that remained to various Charity outlets around the neighbourhood.

The Friends paid for the replacement of a lead flashing which slipped off the roof of the Church (£120) and also paid for the Conservator Andrea Kirkham to return to re-assess the condition of the wall paintings. The Lottery required a more up to date report. This cost £384.

Further conversations with the Heritage Lottery Fund have established that schemes under £1 million can be handled by the East of England office in Cambridge and that everything we want to do can be presented in one package. We are getting on with formulating our approach.

Peter Smith

Thwaite St Mary:

Social Events

The Coffee morning held on 23 March at Mr and Mrs Shulver thank you for hosting this. Harvest supper, Bangers and Mash end of September fairly well attended, thanks to all those who helped. At the Carol Service on Monday 18th December lessons were read by Mrs Susie Brook, William Edwards, Mrs Geraldine Hayes and Mr Patrick Neal. After the service a Buffet was served and appreciated by the congregation. Thanks to all who made it such a success.

Parish Magazine

The parish magazine continues to be produced on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. The village correspondent is Geraldine Hayes, while Fiona Berry continues to collate the material and Mavin Shulver dealing with advertisers and collecting their contributions and also distributing the magazine to each household.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BROOKE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Barclays Bank		
Current Account	8,652	11,233
Deposit Accounts	15,954	25,905
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>£ 24,606</u>	<u>£37,138</u>
Represented by:-		
General church fund		
at 1 January 2017 (2017)	1,972	4,945
Add Excess (Deficit) of Income over expenditure	(10,858)	(2,973)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(8,886)	1,972
Church Fabric Fund		
at 1 January 2017 (2017)	35,166	34,317
Add Excess of Income over expenditure	<u>(1,674)</u>	849
	33,492	35,166
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>£ 24,606</u>	<u>£37,138</u>

**KIRSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER
2018**

<u>2016</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
3172	Gift Aid and GASDS	3438	3290
1690	Donations	13607	194
28	Fund Raising	2446	2444
1542	Tax Recovered	816	806
0	Bank Interest	1	11
0	Legacy	0	0
1026	Fees	1741	393
0	Sundries	84	177
7458		22133	7314
	 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
3557	Parish Share	3604	2800
607	Rectors Expenses	644	760
799	Insurance	841	811
177	Light & Heat	222	228
1076	Upkeep Church fabric/organ	758	148
203	Upkeep of Churchyard	0	0
0	Fund Raising Expenses	1064	0
304	Apportionment of Fees	530	86
10	Special causes	139	10
264	Sundries	310	158
6996		8112	5001
462	Total receipts in excess of payments	14021	2313
	 <u>BALANCES TO DATE</u>		
<u>31.12.16</u>		<u>31.12.17</u>	<u>31.12.18</u>
4744	General Fund as at beginning of year	5206	19227
462	Plus/less payments over receipts	14021	2313
5206		19227	21540
1199	Cash at Bank Capital Reserve	15512	18040
3988	Cash at Bank Current Account	3659	3211
19	Cash in Hand	2	2
0	Credits not yet cashed	130	430
0	Less unrepresented cheques	-76	-142
5206		19226	21541

Mundham and Seething PCC**Balance Sheet****31.12.18****Income**

Planned Giving	1592.00
Collections	1794.14
Carol Singing	181.00
Norfolk Cycle Ride	65.31
Wall Safe	120.46
Donation	248.71
Weddings	470.00
Funerals etc.	2972.00
Insurance Claim	348.00
Mundham Church Yard	50.00
Mundham N/Letter	30.00
Newsletter Donation	10.00
Misc	19.57
HMRC Gift Aid	1155.68
Community Lunch	300.00
Wedding Verger/Organist	120.00
Newsletter Adverts	80.00
Friends Repairs	120.00
Remembrance Service Coll	244.20
Travel Exp Funeral (will contra)	15.00
	<u>9936.07</u>
Expenses over income	<u>382.72</u>
	<u><u>10318.79</u></u>

Expenses

Parish Share	2400.00
Electricity	333.04
NDBF	905.00
Norfolk Churches Trust	30.00
Insurance	2957.80
Fire Ext Service	37.00
Copier	259.20
Cleaning	165.35
Music Licence	228.01
CD's & Player	195.75
Donation B/L	150.00
Repairs Mundham Roof	988.00
Deanery Synod	7.00
Vicars Expenses	759.64
Refund (Banns K Searle)	29.00
Verger & Organist Fee	120.00
Organ Service	325.00
Display Material	170.00
British Legion	244.00
Misc	15.00
	<u>10318.79</u>

Balance B/Fwd	1805.09
Plus Income	9936.07
	-
Less Expenses	<u>10318.79</u>
	1422.37
Plus O/S Cheque	244.00
Plus O/S Cheque	<u>114.46</u>
	<u><u>1780.83</u></u>
Bank Statement at 31.12.18	1780.83
Current Acc at 31.12.18	1780.83
BPA Account	5570.11
Interest 31.12.18 BPA	<u>11.12</u>
	<u><u>7362.06</u></u>

Designated Funds

Mundham	42.26
Communion Linen	<u>-36.95</u>
	<u><u>5.31</u></u>
Seething	
B/Fwd	685.75
Less CD'S/CD Player	-195.75
Less Organ Service	-325.00
Communion Linen	<u>-36.95</u>
	<u><u>128.05</u></u>

	Balance Sheet for St Mary's Thwaite		January 1st to December 31st 2018
Balance 2017:	£9,610.18	Parish Share:	£3,094.08
Collections:	£1,209.38	Deanery Subs:	£7.00
Standing Orders:	£1,058.00	Insurance:	£698.86
Soup Lunch:	£245.00	Children's Society:	£62.00
Newsletter Adverts:	£120.00	Electricity:	£281.82
Newsletter Subs:	£68.00	Advert Fees to Seething & Mundham:	£80.00
Church Box:	£50.66	Vicar's Expenses:	£759.64
Tax Refund:	£457.00	Photocopier:	£189.20
Wedding Fee	£500.00	All Hallows Hospital:	£75.00
Cremation Fee	£210.00	Norfolk Churches Trust:	£30.00
Pop Picnic Parking	£200.00	Wine £10.47 - Linen £36.95:	£47.42
Coffe Morning	£178.32	Return of overpaid gift-aid tax	£541.29
Sausage & Mash	£322.00	Fees for wedding	£201.00
Interest	£16.07	Fees for cremation	£161.00
		Balance Current: £84.52	£8,016.30
		Business: £7931.78	
	<u>£14,244.61</u>		<u>£14,244.61</u>