

The Brooke Benefice

St Peter's Church, Brooke: St Margaret's Church, Kirstead:
St Peter's Church, Mundham with Ss Margaret and Remigius' Church, Seething:
St Mary's Church, Thwaite St Mary.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 19th March 2017

St Peter's Church, Brooke

Present:

E Anger, J Ash, D Coombes, R Dodds, C Garner, K Joad, M Kittle, D Marshall, B Orlands, A Rhodes, D Sanford, R Sanford, Pat Strachan, V Treacher, K Warman, D Warman, G Watson, D Wilde.

Before the official meetings began John Ash, our Reader, expressed his sincere thanks to Lynn for their shared ministry over the past year.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. **Welcome and Prayers.** Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians
2. **Election of Church Wardens:**
The incumbent thanks the Church Wardens for their support and hard work during the past year, particularly trying out new ideas and different ways of worship.
Rosemary Sanford and Daphne Warman have agreed to stand for re-election, as there were no other nominations both were unanimously elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies:** S Ash, I Bowmaker, T Jones, A and L Skepelhorn, Ph Strachan, P and W Tholen, C Wilde
2. **Minutes of Meeting on March 2nd 2015**
The Minutes were circulated before the meeting – assumed read, and accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising: There were no matters raised.**

Items 4-9 are all published in the Annual Report on file and available online and in print on the information table. All agreed that they are taken as read.
4. **Finance Report:** Annual Financial Statement on file.
5. **PCC Reports:** the reports have all been passed by the PCC and made available publicly for the past month.
6. **Church Electoral Roll**
7. **Fabric Report**
8. **Deanery Synod Report**
9. **Reports from Church Organisations**

10. Election of PCC Representatives:

Lynn thanked all members who have worked in a variety of roles throughout the year; some with specific responsibilities and others assisting in supportive ways.

Special thanks go to Linda Skepelhorn who is not seeking re-election and is stepping back from her responsibilities for Adult and Child Safeguarding.

Ruth Dodds, also not seeking re-election, was thanked for her many years of service and presented with a gift.

All remaining current members were prepared to stand for re-election and elected en bloc.

Proposed by R Dodds, seconded by R Sanford, all agreed.

We remembered Jean White who died early this year – a long serving member of the PCC and a past Church Warden.

11. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:

The Incumbent informed the meeting that we are entitled to more representatives and asked us to encourage other people in our congregations to consider taking part.

Brooke has two nominated candidates:

Daphne Warman – proposed by D Wilde, seconded by R Sanford

Rosemary Sanford – proposed by C Garner, seconded by A Rhodes

Both elected unanimously.

12. Election of Sidespeople:

The existing group of Sidespeople are all willing to continue and there are no new nominations.

Proposed by D Wilde, seconded by K Joad that they should be elected en bloc.

Unanimously agreed. The list of names is on file.

13. Vicar's Report: (full report on file)

The Vicar gave her report on the year 2016 and covered the following areas:

Being Church: Service provided through the Christian Year, especially at Festivals, the Occasional Offices and opportunities for mission linked to these. New things that have been tried during the year: Service for the Queen's birthday, Songs of Praise at the Mere's, Benefice outing. Study groups that had taken place during the year and the development of worship at Easter.

Fundraising: The increased amount of the Parish Share paid was noted. Through the year, at various events, approximately £4,500 had been raised throughout the Benefice. Money had also been raised to support charities.

Committed to Growth: The development of the Benefice Growth Plan, which was presented on Advent Sunday. Each aim was presented and updates given on progress so far.

Looking to the future: It is very difficult to see what the future will hold as we grapple with current challenges, financial, buildings, small congregations. Priority needs to be faithful prayer and worship. We need to look for signs of God at work, especially in small things, and give thanks for these. Need to trust that in the power of the Holy Spirit we can do more than we think we can and to be prepared to take the risk.

Rosemary thanked Lynn for her comprehensive report.

14. A.O.B: None notified

15. Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 18th March 2018

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 12.20pm