



IN DISCIPLESHIP

IN SERVICE

IN NUMBERS

# GROWTH PLAN

## THE BROOKE BENEFICE

PRESENTED ADVENT SUNDAY 2016

**Priest-in-Charge:** Revd Lynn Chapman

**Reader:** Mr John Ash

**Proposed by:**

The Benefice Churchwardens

8<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Approved by:**

Brooke PCC

Kirstead PCC

Mundham with Seething PCC

Thwaite PCC

31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

6<sup>th</sup> November 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

**To be evaluated and renewed:** October 2017

# Discipleship

*Enable the people of Christ to fulfil their part in God's mission,  
baptising and nurturing believers*

## What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?

- Prayer and meditation group established in 2011 continues to meet on a monthly basis.
- “Warm worship” – Weekday Communion Service for those who find Sunday in church too early/cold/uncomfortable.
- Introduction of information on, and encouragement of, regular giving as part of discipleship.

## What long established good things are we doing?

- Regular Sunday worship in all the churches of the Benefice.
- A variety of styles of worship.
- Annual Lent Study group.
- Involvement of Lay people in leading worship.

## What else is God wanting for us?

- Instruction and study in the faith, especially developing a life of prayer.
- Worship which encourages young people and families.
- Changes to the interior of our buildings to provide more space.
- Explore “Messy Church” in our context.
- Provide more opportunities for worship on Sundays and at other times.

## What can we do this year?

- Continue to develop our Café Church services.....
- ..... and consider the introduction of a similar Communion service (Brooke)
- Pray for lay (or ordained!) worship leaders to come forward from among our congregations or to join us

## Service

*Respond to human need by loving service.  
Safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth  
Seek to transform the unjust structures of society*

### What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?

- Monthly “Songs of Praise” at Brooke House (Brooke)
- Bi-monthly parish magazine delivered to every home (Mundham with Seething and Thwaite)
- Development of some links with Seething and Mundham Primary School (Mundham with Seething)
- Bell rehangng project which includes community links (Brooke)
- Introduction of the Benefice Outing
- Development of support for Christian Aid

### What long established good things are we doing?

- Monthly Community Lunches (Brooke, Mundham with Seething and Thwaite)
- Bi-monthly parish magazine delivered free of charge to every home (Brooke and Kirstead)
- “Ladies Evening Group” (Brooke)
- The vicar is chair of the Brooke Adventurers Football Teams (Brooke)
- The vicar is a governor of Brooke Primary School (Brooke)
- Food Bank Collection Point (Brooke)
- Village community involved in church maintenance and upkeep (Thwaite)

### What else is God wanting for us?

- Run a café and/or shop for the community
- Organise social events in the church – with organised transport
- Establish a rota of visitors for the housebound and lonely
- Development of conservation projects in our churchyards with the local community

### What can we do this year?

- Continue to explore and develop our churchyard conservation project (Brooke)
- Pray that we can identify those who could offer time and skills in visiting the housebound and lonely in our villages



# Numbers

*Proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom*

## **What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?**

- Establishment of Open the Book project in Brooke Primary School in September 2014.
- Development of “Café Church” style worship and increase in number of services across the Benefice.
- All churches now “Open Churches” during British Summer Time.
- Development of “user friendly” service books.

## **What long established good things are we doing?**

- “Open” policy for baptisms and marriages.
- Development of Benefice Web-site, especially as means of communication about “What’s on”.
- Worship linked to national events eg. The Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday or village events.
- Annual Commemoration Service for those bereaved during the year.

## **What else is God wanting for us?**

- Development of fellowship through prayer and study groups
- “Out of the ordinary” services to attract irregular worshippers
- Develop follow up for Baptism and marriage families
- Development of “tourists as pilgrims” in our Open Churches

## **What can we do this year?**

- Develop and extend our work with Baptism families
- Continue work to interpret our churches for visitors