

The Brooke Benefice

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

Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 21st March 2021 @ 11.30am On Zoom

MINUTES

ANNUAL Meeting of Parishioners

Welcome and prayers

The Vicar welcomed those attending the meeting and opened with prayers.
Zoom etiquette was established.

Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar thanked the current Churchwardens and Christopher Kemp, the Lay Chair of Kirstead PCC, for their support and help in what had been a challenging year. She emphasised the difficult decisions that had been taken at times and burden of responsibility that they had helped to bear.

Thanks were expressed to John Ash and to his wife, Stephanie, for their staunch support during the year. The Vicar particularly appreciated the new opportunities to share ministry that Zoom had provided.

All those who had died in the last year, with links to the Benefice, were remembered but especially those who had been faithful members of congregations: Henry Shulver, Tom Brooke, Don Coombes and Joy Malt.

The resignation of Daphne Warman as Churchwarden of Brooke was noted. The Vicar thanked Daphne for nearly twenty years of service in the role, including offering leadership in two interregnums. A parish "thank you" is planned for later in the year when restrictions are lifted, but in the meantime a small gift would be delivered later in the day.

The following nominations had been received for those standing for election in 2021-22:

Brooke :	Rosemary Sanford
Mundham with Seething :	Gillian Balls, Ann Garnham
Thwaite St Mary :	Mavin Shulver

Following elections in each parish all were elected unanimously to serve. There will be no Central Visitation this year and Churchwardens will be sworn in by the incumbent later in the year. All wardens meet the Safeguarding standards required.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Brooke: Diane Marshall

Minutes of the meetings held in March 2020

These were received as a true record and signed by the Vicar

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Safeguarding Report

The Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Laura Cowan, gave her report. The Benefice meets all the requirements identified in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and all training and checks are up to date. The introduction of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard has been taken up for each parish and the first level has been completed. Work is underway to complete the second level.

There were no questions and the report was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The Vicar thanked Laura for her willingness to continue in this role.

Finance Reports and PCC Reports

These had been available before the meeting. There being no questions it was unanimously agreed to accept these reports.

Church Electoral Rolls

All four Electoral Rolls had been updated during the period before the Annual Meetings. Electoral Roll officers reported that the numbers on each new Electoral Roll stand at:

Brooke:	73
Kirstead:	13
Mundham with Seething:	17
Thwaite St Mary:	14

Fabric Reports, Deanery Synod Report and Reports from Church organisations

The Vicar particularly thanked Brian Orland and choir members for their commitment to recording and producing music at home for use at worship on Zoom. She also thanked Daniel Ayers and John Ash for their help with technological matters during the year.

These reports had all been available before the meeting. There being no questions it was unanimously agreed to accept them.

Election of PCC representatives

Thanks were expressed to Caroline Egerton retired from Mundham with Seething PCC during the year.

Nominations for membership of the PCC were received from:

<u>Brooke:</u>	<u>Kirstead:</u>	<u>Mundham with Seething:</u>	<u>Thwaite St Mary:</u>
Keith Joad	Andrew Behagg	Judy Baldwin	Tom Edwards
Christina Jones	Gillian Green	Laura Cowan	Su Mahon
Diane Marshall	Christopher Kemp	Margaret Eastham	
Brian Orland	Cliff Whatrup	Morna Hill	
Alison Rhodes		Anne Rudd	
David Sanford			
Patricia Strachan			
Kenneth Warman			
Gwyneth Watson			
Charles Wilde			
Diana Wilde			

Following elections in each parish all were elected unanimously to serve.

The Vicar welcomed Laura Cowan and Morna Hill as new members of Mundham with Seething PCC and looked forward to their contribution.

All PCC members who had previously served are compliant with safeguarding expectations. New members would be undertaking the necessary training and checks in due course.

Election to Deanery Synod

Rosemary Sanford was elected for a three year term in 2020. Daphne Warman stood down as a Deanery Synod representative from the meeting.

There were two further nominations for Deanery Synod representatives:

John Ash (Brooke)
Alison Rhodes (Brooke)

These nominees were elected to serve by members of Brooke PCC.

The meeting was reminded of the importance of being represented at Deanery Synod and that meetings of the Synod are now usually open to all who wish to attend.

Election of Sidespeople

This item is only relevant to Brooke. The following had agreed to act as Sidespersons in the next year and were elected to do so unanimously:

Laura Cowan	Maureen Kittle
Stephanie Drake	Linda Riley
Martin Hanner	David Sanford
Peter Horner	Pat Strachan
Janet Joad	Gwyneth Watson
Keith Joad	Charles Wilde
Christina Jones	Diana Wilde

Vicar's Report

Further to her written report, available before the meeting, the Vicar made the following comments:

2020 had been an unusual and challenging year in which many unexpected things had happened, not least "the Brooke Benefice on-line". The Benefice Vision of "worshipping, welcoming and working together" had become a reality much quicker than expected.

She addressed the opportunities that the "Pandemic break" offers to the Benefice and acknowledged that the step into the unknown is not without its scary bits.

The following aims were suggested for the coming year:

- to make careful decisions about the return to public worship, drawing on our experience of worshipping together as a Benefice and of worshipping on-line.
- to make choices about our worship and our buildings that will help to make both welcoming environments, where people feel comfortable and are more open to relationship with God.
- to work together to fund raise and provide for the social needs of our communities.

She urged everyone present to be kind and generous in the days to come and not to lose sight of the focus of the light of Christ being available to all.

Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

Date of Next Meeting:

Sunday 20th March 2022

The meeting closed at 12.12pm