

# 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.

## Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 11.30am St Peter's Church Brooke

### MINUTES

#### ANNUAL Meeting of Parishioners

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for each parish in the Benefice took place in the parish church as follows:

Kirstead	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	12.30pm
Thwaite	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm
Mundham with Seething	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm
Brooke	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	11.15am

#### Welcome and prayers

The Vicar welcomed those attending the meeting and opened with prayers.

#### Election of Churchwardens

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. Churchwardens will be sworn in by the incumbent later in the year at an appropriate service in the Benefice. All wardens have current DBS checks and know that they need to update training to meet the Safeguarding standards required. A plan for updating training is in place across the Benefice.

The Vicar thanked the Churchwardens and Christopher Kemp (Lay Chair for Kirstead) for their support in what had been a challenging year. She expressed her gratitude for their willingness to recognise the need for change in response to recognising the realities of the situation in which the Benefice found itself.

The Vicar also thanked John Ash for his steadfast support and help in leading the Benefice and sharing ministry.

The following congregation members who had died in the past year were remembered: Barbara Alexander, June Gower, Tony Hemmings, Vi Treacher.

The Vicar reminded the meeting of the important contacts made through the Pastoral Offices which take place throughout the year.

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

## Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Brooke: Ian Bowmaker, Diane Marshall, Wendy and Paul Tholen  
Kirstead: Christopher Kemp  
Mundham with Seething: Judy Baldwin, Laura Cowan  
Thwaite: Tom Edwards

## Minutes of the meetings held in March 2021

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

## Matters arising

There were no matters arising

## Safeguarding Report

The Vicar gave the report in the absence of the Safeguarding Officer.

There were no safeguarding issues reported in the year.

All PCCs are working at the parish dashboards and aim to complete to level three by the end of the year. Plans are in place for this.

New Safeguarding requirements from January 2022 mean that office holders will now need to undertake more safeguarding training. All PCC members will need to update their training during 2022. A plan for this to be achieved is in place.

The Safeguarding report for 2021 was adopted unanimously.

## Finance Reports and PCC Reports

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

The Vicar thanked the treasurers for their work over the year. She also expressed gratitude at the full payment of Parish Share in 2021.

## 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:	68
Kirstead:	13
Mundham with Seething:	15
Thwaite St Mary:	14

## Fabric Reports, Deanery Synod Report and Reports from Church organisations

The Vicar particularly thanked Alison Rhodes for her leadership of the Fund Raising Working Party during the year. She also thanked Alison for collating and producing the Benefice Annual Report. Thanks were also expressed to Brian Orland for co-ordinating the return of live music to worship.

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 Gwyneth Watson and Margaret Eastham who both retired from PCCs during the year, after long service.

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	Morna Hill	
Brian Orland	Cliff Whatrup	Anne Rudd	
Alison Rhodes			
David Sanford			
Patricia Strachan			
Kenneth Warman			
Charles Wilde			
Diana Wilde			

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

As reported elsewhere, Safeguarding training for PCC members is due to be updated and plans are in place for this to happen.

### Vicar's Report

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

The call of Jesus to all believers is to proclaim the Gospel and teach the faith. The Christian faith "works" because one person tells another about their faith and what it means to them and then new believers join the work of the Church.

It is easy for this important work to get lost amidst all the practical decisions that need to be taken about buildings, finance etc. God is calling people to join the Church in the Brooke Benefice, but the people who already belong to the Church need to do the ground work.

The challenging question is: do we want the Church in the Brooke Benefice to grow?

If the answer is "yes", we need to be prepared for change.

Growth will be a focus in the coming months. A small group of people who attended the "Leading your Church into Growth" course recently will begin this work, but it will be open to others to join in.

A culture of praying for growth is an essential foundation. Prayer cards were available for those who were prepared to commit to praying for growth.

Any Other Business

Patricia Strachan and John Ash both expressed thanks to the Vicar for her leadership through the pandemic and in the establishment of inclusive worship. This was echoed by others present.

Date of Next Meeting:

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The meeting closed at 11.55am