



Agenda, Reports and Financial Statements 2023

For the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

and the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024

Rector:

The Reverend Rosemary Bunn
The Rectory
Beccles Road,
Belton
Great Yarmouth NR31 9JQ

Curate:

The Reverend Vivienne Ridpath
St Georges Road
Belton
Great Yarmouth NR31 9LE

Independent Examiner:

Brenda Hoskins

Bank:

Royal Bank of Scotland
Great Yarmouth Branch
Great Yarmouth NR30 1HP

**Commissioning Prayer
of
PCC and Churchwardens**

**Lord, we thank you that you have called us to
follow you and brought us together in the
fellowship of your Church.**

**We gladly accept this leadership responsibility
which your people have given us for the next year.**

We commit ourselves unsparingly to your work.

**We resolve to exercise our leadership authority
in an effective and godly manner,
following the example of Jesus,
under the direction of your Holy Spirit,
for the advancement of your kingdom alone.**

Amen

A Prayer for Growth

**God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship,
and power to our witness.**

**Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Parish of All Saints Belton
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 21st April 2024
during Sunday morning worship: 10.30 am
All Saints Church, Belton

Agendas

Opening Prayers

Apologies for Absence

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners
Chaired by the Rev. Rosie Bunn

1. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting (page 5)
2. Church Wardens' Report including Fabric Report (page 7)
3. Election of Church Wardens
(proposed: Anneka Gearie and ??)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Chaired by the Rev Rosie Bunn

1. Minutes of the 2023 meeting (page5)
2. Matters arising from these minutes.
3. Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report 2023
including the Report on the Electoral Roll. (Pages 8-10)
4. Review of Safeguarding
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts. (Pages 11-15)
6. Risk Management. (Pages 16-17)
7. Great Yarmouth Deanery Synod Report 2023 (Pages 18-19)

8. Church Organisations Reports

(from page 20)

9. Election of the Welcome Team for Belton

10. Election of members of the P.C.C.

Members should be:

- proposed and seconded;
- on the Church Electoral Roll;
- willing to stand
- present at the meeting or apologies to the Secretary

11. Appointment of Officers:

- Election of Secretary (proposal: Kelly Bancroft)
- Election of Treasurer (proposal: Anneka Gearie)
- Appointment of Vice Chairman (proposal:)
- Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer (proposal: Sue Angel)
- Appointment of Auditor (proposal: Brenda Hoskins)

12. Any Other Business

(to be notified to the secretary before the meeting)

13. Date of the next A P C M *suggested*: Sunday 23rd March 2025 ?



At All Saints Belton there are opportunities to serve God in many different ways, using your gifts and skills, whatever your age or gender. All Saints is a church family where we are all learning to live our lives following the example of Jesus.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Might you be interested in assisting with the PA or AV in church? or Rock Solid (Thursday pm)? or Sunday children? or serving tea/coffee? or setting up the Church for Young @ Heart or for Sunday Services?

Your help would be much appreciated.

**All Saints Belton
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners
And
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23rd April 2023**

Chaired by the Rev Rosie Bunn

Opening Prayers and Worship

Apologies for Absence: Derek Mill, Barbie Channell, Regi and Reena Alexander

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

- 1) **Minutes** of 2022 Meeting of the parishioners were adopted and seconded by all.
- 2) **Church Wardens Report** including the fabric report was accepted – proposed by: Bill Richmond and seconded by: Ann Howell. Unanimously accepted.
- 3) **Election of Church Wardens**
Anneka Gearie and Adrian Durrant proposed by: Rosie Bunn and seconded by: Jim Channell. Unanimously agreed by all. Barbie Channell was thanked for her support during 2022 and prayers said to bless Anneka and Adrian as they begin or continue their new role.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1) **Minutes** of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting were adopted – proposed by: Anneka Gearie and seconded by: Adrian Durrant unanimously agreed by all
- 2) **Matters Arising** from these minutes: None
- 3) **Parochial Church Council Secretary Report (2022)** was accepted – proposed by: Adrian Durrant seconded by: Bill Richmond. Unanimously agreed.
- 4) **Treasurers Report 2022** – Accounts for 2022 checked and verified by Independent Examiner, Brenda Hoskins
Report Accepted – proposed by: Rosie Bunn seconded by: Sue Angell
No questions raised
- 5) **Risk Management** – report was accepted

6) **Safeguarding Annual Review:** Michelle Horgan was confirmed as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Proposed by: Rosie Bunn seconded by: Adrian Durrant Unanimously accepted. Michelle thanked for her hard work over the past year.

Report accepted, proposed by: Rosie Bunn, seconded by: Adrian Durrant

7) **Deanery Synod Report 2022:** received and proposed by: Rosie Bunn and seconded by: Viv Redpath

No representatives proposed at the meeting. Agreed that this would be discussed at the next PCC meeting. *Subsequently An Howell volunteered and was accepted as our representative on Great Yarmouth Deanery Synod.*

8) **Church Organisations:** reports received and reviewed, all accepted

9) **Election of PCC:**

It was proposed by Adrian Durrant and seconded by Sue Richmond, that all who were willing to stand be elected as PCC members. Agreed unanimously.

Elected Members: Sue Angell, Kelly Bancroft, Colin Chilvers, Paula Durrant, Michelle Horgan, Derek Mill, Janet Jones, Shirley Gracey, Elisabeth Stone

10) **Appointment of Officers**

Secretary – Kelly Bancroft

proposed by Rosie Bunn, seconded by Sue Angell – unanimous.

Treasurer – Anneka Gearie

proposed by Rosie Bunn, seconded by: Shirley Gracey – unanimous

Vice Chair – will be discussed at next PCC meeting

Electoral Roll Officer – Sue Angell

proposed by Rosie Bunn seconded by: Adrian Durrant unanimous

Independent examiner: Brenda Hoskins was proposed by: Rosie Bunn and seconded by: Anneka Gearie - agreed unanimously

11) **Any Other Business** - None

12) **Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** Sunday 21st April 2024

Church Wardens Report 2024 including Fabric Report

As we gather for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, it is with pleasure that I present this report on behalf of the church wardens. This past year has been marked by both challenges and opportunities, and we are grateful for the chance to reflect on our achievements and anticipate the year ahead. Despite external challenges, our commitment to providing spiritual guidance, fostering fellowship, and engaging with our community has remained unwavering.

Worship and Spiritual Life: Our worship services have continued to serve as the foundation of our community life, offering moments of reflection, inspiration, and connection. We have adapted by embracing new worship formats, including online services, to ensure accessibility for all members of our congregation. Additionally, we have provided opportunities for spiritual growth and formation through study groups, prayer meetings, and other initiatives.

Pastoral Care: In the face of uncertainty and hardship, pastoral care has been a top priority for our church community. Our clergy, staff, and volunteers have tirelessly offered support, comfort, and encouragement to those in need. Whether through pastoral visits, phone calls, or practical assistance, we have endeavoured to embody Christ's love and compassion in all our interactions.

Maintenance and Building Care: As Churchwardens, we are entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining our Grade II listed building. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this effort, from churchyard clean-ups to maintenance tasks. Special thanks to the unseen volunteers who diligently prepare the church building for various events each week. We also appreciate the assistance of MJ Bunting cleaners in keeping our beautiful building clean. However, we acknowledge the need for personal responsibility in maintaining tidiness to maximize the effectiveness of their services. We conducted working parties to clear the outer perimeter and walkways, vital for preventive maintenance. We encourage more volunteers to participate in these efforts and welcome feedback to better accommodate schedules.

The Quinquennial survey identified necessary repairs and maintenance, some of which we aim to address in-house while actively seeking funding for others. Tim's quick response to assist us in repairing a gas leak and Sue's initiative in replacing slippery surfaces in the kitchen and toilet areas deserve recognition.

Ornaments and Chattels: We have restarted work on updating our inventory and ensuring the proper care of church ornaments and chattels. Despite challenges, progress is being made to ensure everything is accounted for and properly maintained.

Conclusion: As we reflect on the past year, we are encouraged by God's presence amidst challenges, complexities, and blessings. We extend our gratitude to the congregation for their support, friendship, and encouragement. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated individuals and volunteers, to share worship and fellowship, and to deepen our journey with God together. As we look to the future, let us embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead with faith, hope, and courage. Together, as a community of faith, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us and further God's kingdom on earth. Blessings.

Anneka Gearie Church Warden

Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report including the Report on the Electoral Roll – 2023

Incumbent:	The Rev. Rosie Bunn		
Curate:	The Rev. Vivienne Ridpath		
Church Wardens:	Anneka Gearie Adrian Durrant		
Secretary:	Kelly Bancroft		
Treasurer:	Anneka Gearie		
Elected Members:	Derek Mill	Colin Chilvers	Shirley Gracey
	Paula Durrant	Michelle Horgan	Sue Angell
	Bob Hudson	Liz Stone	Janet Jones
Ex Officio:	GY Deanery Synod: An Howell		

There have been 9 PCC Meetings held throughout the year. The meetings regularly discuss Finance, Safeguarding, Young at Heart, Moorlands, Digital Presence, Children and Youth, Church Building and Churchyard, Deanery Synod, and The Pantry, with reports being given from the leaders at most meetings. All groups and events that happen within the church meet under the auspices of the PCC. Thank you to all who attended meetings, both online and in person, and offered valuable guidance, comment and support, as without the responsibilities taken on and the work done by members of the PCC the church could not function.

Finance is always a major source of discussion, and we have worked hard to raise the Parish Share. This continues to be a concern as we do not really pay our way (the full cost for our Benefice with one Vicar is £67,063 in 2023, yet we were only asked to pay £33,688 of the £42.637 Benefice share) and yet again we have not been able to reach the reduced rate expected of us.

Please keep in mind that the church relies totally on the financial giving by church members to operate. The costs for 2024 are:

Cost for Diocese of clergy (one Vicar) £70,420

Benefice request: £44,777

Belton share: £35,379.

Please reflect on your regular giving to the church and be as generous as you are able - experience has shown that we can never out-give the Lord.

Duties and functions of the PCC includes co-operation with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the consideration and discussion of matters concerning the Church of England and matters of religious and public interest.

Belton Parochial Church Council has responsibility for no properties other than the actual church building.

Church Electoral Roll currently has 52 members – of whom 43 are resident and 9 of whom are non-resident in the parish.

PCC Meetings occurred 9 times during the year. Topics discussed were varied as usual, with the regular reports from Young at Heart, Youth and Children's work, Moorlands Academy, Church Building and Churchyard, Finance and the Rectors Report.

Agenda items and discussions have included; Safeguarding, Prayer, Reflection on Church Identity at All Saints, Church Quinquennial report, The Pantry, Church Fees, Environmental Policies and eco church, the Diocesan Report, and the Diocesan Vision: Transformed by Christ, Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic.

Events that have been held this year include, Men's Walks, the Coronation Celebratory Afternoon Tea, Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, Christmas Fair in the Church Building and Carols at the Queens Head in Burgh Castle.

Prayer and Study Groups are still proving to be a great strength to their members. The groups include; Men's Prayer Breakfast, Paddock Close Life Group, The Rectory Life Group, Recharge and Ladies Bible Chat.

Worship at All Saints Belton usually comes in a variety of styles including morning and evening celebrations, Café Church, Messy/Muddy Church (which takes place in The Rectory garden), and Holy Communion. Services continue to be live-streamed from the Church Building to Facebook to allow as many people as

possible to access services. The worship team is currently smaller than it has been, and sometimes it can be down to two members to lead worship.

The first Tuesday in the month is usually when there is a traditional service of Holy Communion in church, coinciding with the Young at Heart group meeting. Children's church has continued its varied programme outside of the church service on a Sunday morning.

	(Average)	
	Children	Adults
Morning Celebrations:	6	26
Café Church:	8	29
Holy Communion:	7	27
Tuesday Holy Communion:	0	15
Evening Celebrations:	-	11

During 2023 there have been:

3 Baptisms	2 Funerals	1 Wedding
0 Confirmations	3 Cremation services	1 Wedding Blessing
	8 Interment of Ashes	

Information: Details concerning church services and special events are on display on the notice boards in the churchyard. Child protection and vulnerable adult policies, Diocesan Churchyard regulations and the Table of Statutory Fees are displayed in the porch together with the insurance policy and CCLI Licences.

Safeguarding

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust". Psalm 91:2

Our ultimate safety lies in the Lord, but we also have an earthly responsibility to support and protect. The Diocese have been developing training and resources to help us in our role to keep the most vulnerable people within our church community and those we meet safe.

Over the past year training has been completed to continue to update skills and challenge thinking to ensure our safeguarding practice is up to date which helps enables the safety, care and nurture of everyone within our church community.

Michelle Horgan
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report and Accounts - 2023

I am honoured to present this financial report, demonstrating our commitment to transparency and stewardship in managing the resources entrusted to us by the congregation.

Income: Our total income for the year amounted to £51,811.35, sourced from various channels including: • regular giving and donations • Income from fundraising events • Gift Aid recovery • Grants and other contributions Whilst there was an expected decrease in planned giving, plate donations have increased. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our parishioners and supporters, whose continued financial support enables us to fulfil our mission and sustain our ministries.

Expenses: Total expenses for the year amounted to £55,716.16, covering various operational and ministry-related costs, including: • Parish Share • Utility bills and maintenance expenses • Mission giving and donations • Administrative expenses • Property maintenance and repairs Despite the challenges posed by rising costs, we have endeavoured to manage expenses prudently while ensuring the continued vitality of our church community.

Budget Highlights: Highlights from this year's budget include: • Inability to meet our Parish Share contributions • Continued support for outreach and community engagement programs • Grant support for warm space and foodbank provisions • Maintenance and improvement projects for our church building and facilities.

Gratitude: I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the PCC members and volunteers who have generously contributed their time, expertise, and financial resources to support our church's mission. Your dedication and commitment are integral to our continued success.

Gift Aid: Gift Aid plays a crucial role in meeting ministry costs and church maintenance. I urge every member of our church family who can complete and sign an annual Gift Aid declaration. For those unable to Gift Aid donations, cash or contactless methods are preferred, as standing orders cannot be included in small donation claims.

Conclusion: In conclusion, it has been a challenging financial year, and we have not been able to achieve all our objectives. However, our church remains reliant on God's provision to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead. With continued support from our parishioners and divine guidance, we will remain faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, ensuring our church communities' ongoing vitality and impact.

**Anneka Gearie
Treasurer**

Belton All Saints PCC

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts:							
Collections at Services	3	2,999.22	-	-	-	2,999.22	1,764.52
Planned giving	3	20,965.00	-	-	-	20,965.00	22,790.00
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	3,637.55	-	-	-	3,637.55	6,008.64
Grant Income	3	7,150.00	-	-	-	7,150.00	11,950.00
Legacies Received (Capital Value)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid recovered		7,842.48	-	-	-	7,842.48	4,315.43
		42,594.25	-	-	-	42,594.25	46,828.59
Activities for generating funds	3	1,905.33	-	-	-	1,905.33	167.50
Investment income		2,548.77	-	-	-	2,548.77	2,438.09
Church activities	3	4,763.00	-	-	-	4,763.00	1,949.00
Other income	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		51,811.35	-	-	-	51,811.35	51,383.18
Payments							
Church activities:							
Parish share		22,100.00	-	-	-	22,100.00	28,000.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	4	4,673.62	-	-	-	4,673.62	1,100.79
Church running expenses	4	17,474.91	-	-	-	17,474.91	11,313.93
Mission giving and donations	4	320.46	-	-	-	320.46	1,703.32
Building work and repairs	4	1,806.12	-	-	-	1,806.12	-
Administration Costs	4	203.00	-	-	-	203.00	150.98
Other expenditure	4	9,081.71	-	-	-	9,081.71	14,735.52
		55,659.82	-	-	-	55,659.82	57,004.54
Cost of generating funds	4	56.34	-	-	-	56.34	108.40
Total Payments		55,716.16	-	-	-	55,716.16	57,112.94
Excess of payments over receipts		- 3,904.81	-	-	-	- 3,904.81	- 5,729.76
Transfers between funds							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		- 3,904.81	-	-	-	- 3,904.81	- 5,729.76
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		18,630.98	-	-	-	18,630.98	24,360.74
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		295.84	13,211.72	2,953.00	-	14,587.92	18,630.98

Statement of Assets and Liabilities							
	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds							
Bank Current Account	5	12,659.96	-	-	-	12,659.96	17,647.48
Petty Cash		1,927.96	-	-	-	1,927.96	983.50
		14,587.92	-	-	-	14,587.92	18,630.98
	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets retained for Church use							
Building Fund	2	-	4,538.07	-	-	4,538.07	5,373.57
Rebuild Fund	2	-	3,481.29	-	-	3,481.29	3,481.29
Pantry	2	-	232.89	-	-	232.89	4,812.32
Warm Space		-	-	2,953.00	-	-	2,000.00
Reserved Funds	2	-	-	4,959.47	-	4,959.47	4,904.20
Total Assets		-	8,252.25	7,912.47	-	13,211.72	20,571.38

						2023
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES</u>						
Sunday Collections		2,443.01	-	-	-	2,443.01
Wedding and Funeral Collections		556.21	-	-	-	556.21
		2,999.22	-	-	-	2,999.22
<u>PLANNED GIVING</u>						
Standing Order		20,965.00	-	-	-	20,965.00
		20,965.00	-	-	-	20,965.00
<u>GIFT AID RECOVERED</u>						
Gift Aid Reclaim		7,842.48	-	-	-	7,842.48
		7,842.48	-	-	-	7,842.48
<u>ALL OTHER GIVING/VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS</u>						
Appeals		112.01	-	-	-	112.01
Donations		3,525.54	-	-	-	3,525.54
		3,637.55	-	-	-	3,637.55
<u>ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS</u>						
Fete		1,123.82	-	-	-	1,123.82
Other Fundraising		781.51	-	-	-	781.51
		1,905.33	-	-	-	1,905.33
<u>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</u>						
Fees - Statutory		4,763.00	-	-	-	4,763.00
		4,763.00	-	-	-	4,763.00
<u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>						
Dividends and Interest		2,548.77	-	-	-	2,548.77
		2,548.77	-	-	-	2,548.77
<u>GRANT INCOME</u>						
Non-Recurring Grants		7,150.00	-	-	-	7,150.00
		7,150.00	-	-	-	7,150.00

4. Payments	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>CLERGY AND STAFFING COSTS</u>					
Clergy Expenses	4,673.62	-	-	-	4,673.62
	4,673.62	-	-	-	4,673.62
<u>CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES</u>					
Clearing	1,295.04	-	-	-	1,295.04
Gas and Electricity Bill	10,141.59	-	-	-	10,141.59
Insurance	2,320.65	-	-	-	2,320.65
Service Costs	645.43	-	-	-	645.43
Maintenance	1,091.34	-	-	-	1,091.34
Water Bill	119.09	-	-	-	119.09
Volunteer Expenses	298.74	-	-	-	298.74
Legal Expenses	1,563.03	-	-	-	1,563.03
	17,474.91	-	-	-	17,474.91

<u>MISSION GIVING AND DONATIONS</u>					
Charities - Home	32.14	-	-	-	-
Charities - Overseas	288.32	-	-	-	-
	320.46	-	-	-	-
<u>COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS</u>					
Fund raising	56.34	-	-	-	-
	56.34	-	-	-	-
<u>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</u>					
Computer	203.00	-	-	-	203.00
Stationery	-	-	-	-	-
	203.00	-	-	-	203.00
<u>OTHER EXPENDITURE</u>					
Mission and Evangelism Costs	8,081.71	-	-	-	8,081.71
Loan Repayment	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00
	9,081.71	-	-	-	9,081.71
5. Bank Current Account					
	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank Account New	9,567.66	-	-	-	9,567.66
Bank Account Old	3,092.30	-	-	-	3,092.30
	12,659.96	-	-	-	12,659.96

Independent Examiners Certificate

Report to the trustees/ members of:	Belton All Saints PCC
On accounts for the year ended:	31 st DECEMBER 2023
Charity no (if any):	

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

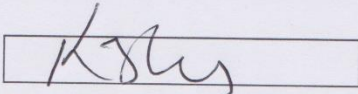
~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of []]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date: 12/3/24
Name: KEVIN JOHN LONG

Risk Management

Financial Risks

In 2023, we did not manage to pay what was required by the Diocese for our Parish Share contribution.

We have not paid a regular amount to chosen charities, as has been the wish of PCC for a number of years, but small charitable donations were made to those chosen charities after specific services focused on their work.

We survive month to month and greatly appreciate the giving of everyone including the giving of skills and time. During 2023 the church was well used, being able to offer a warm space two days per week in the beginning of the year, in addition to Tuesday morning Young at Heart, thanks to a successful grant application in 2022 from Norfolk Community Fund and a Diocesan grant towards the cost of the heating and lighting, so the actual cost of heating and lighting were less than originally anticipated. However, with the fluctuations in fuel costs, our heating/lighting costs will need to be carefully monitored.

Our giving through the offering basket has increased, but because much of the giving at All Saints is through standing orders, money continues to come in to enable bills to be settled. However, the full cost for a parish, if paid in full, is £67,063. We were approved a reduced rate of £42,637 (£33,688 Belton share) with the expectation that this would be paid in full. We were unable to meet this again, so going forward money will continue to get even tighter to meet this requirement of us.

However, as we continue to reach out to a world in need, the PCC does find the monthly ritual of wondering if we have managed to “get by” again, time consuming and draining of our energy. Please pray that we will respond to God’s generosity to us and find ways to provide enough income for the church to

- pay our Parish Share
- donate generously to the chosen charities
- fund the work we do in all areas including Rock Solid, Moorlands Academy, Refill and pastoral care
- continue to fund The Pantry scheme*

* Funding for The Pantry comes significantly from grant monies and The Pantry Foodbank will find it a struggle to continue to respond to needs without further support.

Statutory and Legal Requirements

The DBS checks are updated regularly; Church Wardens, clergy, lay ministers and youth & children’s workers are all required to have enhanced DBS checks. Everyone who works with young people or vulnerable adults must have a DBS check and have completed C0 and C1 of the Diocesan Safeguarding course. Those in leadership

must have completed the C2 level. This applies particularly in regard to our work with Young at Heart and all the children's work. Regular training needs to be undertaken. Safeguarding training is an essential requirement for all PCC members, who are required to reach level C1. There is also the need to keep up-to-date with both the Safeguarding training and our DBS checks.

The Health and Safety Policy and our two Protection Policies need to be kept up to date. Data Protection and GDPR regulations are adhered to.

Operational Risks

There is an expectation that we regularly check the building; and all repair work carried out is logged in the book kept in the vestry.

A new carpet for the chancel still awaiting completion. Further funds have been raised for this and a faculty application has to be made. Introduction of TV screens and upgrades to the audio and visual equipment has begun thanks to a grant application from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

If we are to continue to grow, the number of people who are involved in the work of the church also needs to grow. In the past there has seemed to be a tendency for the same people to be involved in every aspect of the church's life and ministry, however, this year we have begun to see the workload spread out a bit more to new volunteers.

The Pantry Foodbank continues to be called upon with strong demand, and the team meets that workload between them. Overarching care needs to be given to those who care for those in need, because the demands on them are high.

If you feel you have something to offer, or feel your skills are being under-used, please speak to Rosie or preferably one of the Churchwardens.

Help is always needed and appreciated at the "clean up" days spread throughout the year; watch for these on the church notice sheet.

We all have a duty to look after each other, from those who lead to those who have just found faith and are seeking the Way, the Truth and the Life of Jesus.

Rosie Bunn – Rector

GT.YARMOUTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2023

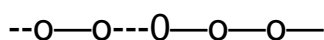
The first Synod was held in March at St Mary Magdalene Church, Gorleston – The parish Spotlight was presented by Mathew Price from St Mary Magdalene in Gorleston in the Centre of 1950's council estate; built in 1957, local parishioners sponsored brick to build the Church. There are three schools – 11,500 people. We have a Foodbank on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday, we have a lunch club. A question and answer session followed.

Simon and Pam gave an update of St Martin in The Field – Hearts Edge - We were given items to use in a particular situation and when we stop to take stock we realised there was enough and plenty. This is called A, B, C, D – Asset Based Community Development.

Living in Love and Faith – Steven Sivyer – Sexual Orientation – Gender – Fact ignore and what has church got to offer. Bishops have met three times. Readdress document 1990's regarding how to live relationships. Liturgy and Prayers for people in same sex marriages could be authorised. Is God leading us to accept same gender marriage? General Synod will debate what House of Bishops present. Not going to redefine what marriage means – Next Synod in July.

Food Bank and Social Action – Year of Living Pastorally

A film from Bishop Graham was shown. Mary Ives read passage John 21: 15-17. Meeting was divided into smaller groups to consider two questions: Echo Bishop Graham – what does living pastorally mean for you? What could help us to be more Pastoral?



The Second Synod of the year was held in June at Holy Trinity and All Saints Church, Winterton. Rev Viv Ridpath of Belton and Burgh Castle presented parish Spot Light. Belton has no village centre – Electoral Roll 55 (10 non resident) – Family orientated and good welcome. Rev Rosie Bunn been in post for 11 years – Church is used for lots of different uses and we have a lot of new people in church. Services are varied we have Cafe Church; Communion Service; Morning Worship – we are lucky to have a live band for services. We have a communion service monthly at Burgh House Care Home. A question and answer session followed:

Pam Spychal reported from Deanery Network and forms were handed out to fill in: What happens in your Church? What happens in your community? What doesn't happen (where are the gaps?).

Archdeacon Catherine – there is a challenge to parish share – how it is understood – not an enforcer but to help parishes what parish share is and what it is used for. Voluntary role; training, etc., would be put in place to help – more information to follow.

Bishop's Lent Pilgrimage 2024 to visit each Deanery and spend a day – including a long good route with a gathering for refreshment or meet and pray with Bishops' Address each evening.

Phil Rod coming to Flegg Churches to be licensed 25th July 2023.

New Deanery Synod Representatives: Carl – St Mary Magdalene Gorleston, Liz – Great Yarmouth Team Ministry.

--o—o---0—o—o—

The third Synod was held in October at Holy Trinity Church, Caister – The Parish Spotlight was delivered by Steve Deall of Bradwell – Since arriving we have had a firm commitment to preach scripture in its entirety; everyone is welcome. Along with welcome, forgiveness is central to our understanding the Gospel.

Headline Figures: we use iKnow to sort out church rotas and stats; Asa of 90 up from 51 three years ago; Electoral Role 102; Main service 70 adults and 12 children in Sunday School; A question and answer session followed:

'Here I am' presentation by Rev Julia Chamberlin
Role of Diocesan Children, Youth and Family Team:
The purpose of the Here I Am resource:
What threatens a meaningful conversation?
What makes a good conversation?

Deanery Synod Secretary

Church Group Reports



Church Organisations Reports

Worship Team Plus

As last year worship band has been very changeable. Once more there have been occasions when there has only been Derek singing and on keyboard sometimes with drums. At other times, there has been a full band with guitar, keyboard, bass, mandolin and drums. Although Tracey moved to Portsmouth she has returned occasionally to lead at times throughout the year. We are still in the fortunate position of being blessed with three/four worship leaders, Derek, Jim and Barbie, and Liz.

We have continued to introduce new songs occasionally as well as reintroducing older songs that have not been used for a while. Children's songs have been included each week and there have been new ones introduced during the year too.

Thank you to all who contribute to the worship band and to those involved in the PA and audio.

Derek Mill

Digital Ministry

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that our digital ministry hasn't played as significant a role in fostering connection, engagement, and outreach within our church community as we had hoped. In today's world, the digital space is just as real as any physical gathering place, and it's essential that we actively participate in these digital communities rather than passively wait for people to come to us.

When we initially launched our digital outreach efforts, it primarily served as a platform to broadcast information to our members, akin to an online billboard. While we intended to reach out to the broader community and equip our members to share the gospel message, the lack of additional volunteers in the past year has led to a regression to simply sharing our Sunday services and newsletter extensions. Despite plans for a more extensive content series, the absence of volunteer time has hindered our progress in creating and uploading this content. Social Media: Although our social media presence has diminished, we've observed that the small number of people we do reach are more engaged with our content this year than in previous years.

Here are some key highlights:

Live Streaming: Initially launched in response to the pandemic, live streaming of our services has now become a staple, offering continuity in worship and fellowship activities for those unable to attend in person.

Interaction and Feedback: Our social media platforms serve as interactive spaces for members to connect, share their thoughts, and provide feedback. We've encouraged dialogue and promptly addressed inquiries and concerns, fostering community and openness to those not currently members of our church.

Website Management: Our church website remains a central hub for information, resources, and engagement opportunities. After migrating to its new home at allsaintsbelton.church last year, the website received a fresh design for improved navigation.

Key highlights include:

User-Friendly Design: Efforts continue to ensure all content is user-friendly and accessible, facilitating easy navigation and engagement with our church's offerings.

Up-to-date Information: Although the majority of content is evergreen, there's room for improvement in maintaining current and relevant information to keep visitors informed about our church's activities.

Multimedia Content: Plans to enhance multimedia content on the website include adding music playlists and video testimonials, providing additional avenues for spiritual nourishment and engagement.

Online Giving: While online giving functionality hasn't been fully implemented, progress was made this year with the ability to accept payments for the Light Party Tickets, aiding in event planning.

Conclusion; While our digital ministry efforts have laid the groundwork to extend the reach and impact of our church's mission, there's much more work to be done. We remain committed to leveraging digital tools and platforms to enhance our ministry outreach and engagement. However, we recognize the need for creative, dedicated, and collaborative volunteers to help us adapt and innovate in the digital landscape. To all who have contributed to our digital ministry endeavours—whether through content creation, technical support, or active participation—your contributions are deeply appreciated and vital to the ongoing success of our digital outreach efforts.

Anneka Gearie

Pastoral Care Report

The pastoral care and support that clergy provide to their congregants is designed to meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of individuals and groups. It includes nurturing, encouraging, counselling (in the broadest sense of the word), teaching, leading, equipping and witnessing. Life events form a large part of their ministry. Rosie and Viv have carried out a number of funerals, weddings and baptisms; which include visiting the people involved and providing spiritual care and guidance in preparation for the event, as well as the organisation.

A service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance was held on a fine sunny evening in July. Invitations were sent to the next of kin, or those who had been involved in arranging funerals for their loved ones in the past 5 years, and were well received, as was the service by all those who attended. This was in addition to Remembrance Sunday in November. Other services in the community included traditional Holy Communion with Young at Heart and at Burgh House.

Pastoral care naturally extends from each individual in the congregation to each other. As pastoral care includes caring, practical support, helping and befriending and praying, the love of God is extended to each other and abroad. In our church, such care continues within an informal setting within the church community.

Alongside pastoral visits from clergy, there is friendly 'checking in' on people, befriending and supporting in practical ways such as lifts, meals, shopping etc. Much pastoral care takes place within church groups. Usually it is group leaders who are aware of situations and ensure that support is in place but, if anyone should ask for support or you have any concerns about someone do tell your group leader or anyone on the Leadership team or clergy.

Another aspect of pastoral care is to nurture, teach and equip and pray as we provide education on the Bible, theology and church doctrine. This is carried out in sermons, Bible study in church and on-line and to a great extent in church groups, especially Life groups, as well as Refill (for mums and carers with toddlers), and for our children on Sunday and at Rock Solid.

Beyond the church, the Pantry reaches out to people in the community and as individuals we help our neighbours, friends or colleagues.

It is beautiful to see how we care for each other but also remember to care for ourselves spiritually and practically, not least with regards to safeguarding and being wise in our visits. With this in mind, Shell, our safe guarding officer, and I will together produce a few basic guidelines to help us stay safe in new or potentially challenging situations. Talk to us if you have any safeguarding concerns at all.

In addition the diocese offers training to become an Authorised Pastoral Assistant. *'Authorised Pastoral Assistants are trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity. In all cases the ministry calls for a loving and compassionate heart, and a willingness to listen and support those in need.'*

If you think you have a calling to develop your pastoral skills and be more involved, please do talk to me, Anneka or Rosie.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Rev Viv Ridpath



The Church Pantry Foodbank

Supporting Families in Need in Belton,
Browston and Burgh Castle

The mild but very wet month of February didn't deter our faithful Pantry team who again successfully delivered 120 bags of food! These were conveyed to 19 different families although, (thankfully) only 2 of these households are in actual need of the Pantry and have been referred to it.

In 2023 the Pantry has made enormous changes to support these vulnerable households. Encouraging independence in managing the money they receive by earning or Universal Credit has been a priority. For some it was very challenging when asked to be reassessed and referred by D.I.A.L.

At the end of the Summer we heard of the Trestle Trust providing the Shrubland's Community Food club for Gorleston residents only. This club is an affordable food shop located in the car park of the Shrublands Youth & Adult Centre. [At the rear of the East Coast Health Centre on Magdalen Way, where food can be purchased cheaply. This initiative was just what was needed so we explained & cheekily asked if we could be included. The reply was positive allowing The Pantry to submit the names of 'a handful of people.' With no hesitation we gained permission from each householder to join this club for a year providing their name, address & £4.00. Members can buy a range of fresh, dried & canned food, alongside toiletries & personal items.

In September all Foodbank Families were informed the new updated system would begin in January with the old one finishing before or by the close of December. All households were reminded to use the Shrublands Community shop if possible. At present The Pantry serves Belton, Browston, Burgh Castle, & any other post code area with a 9. Occasionally we are requested to provide

a one off emergency cover for another area so we work very closely with other foodbanks. The Pantry requires a referral form, initially, for 3 gifts over 3 weeks but this depends on the household's circumstances - e.g. money takes longer than expected to arrive. Occasionally an emergency cover gift will be followed by 3 weeks of support.

In 2023 donations were at a very low level but thanks to regular donations by four community groups & two individuals, plus the remaining fund, we have sufficient for Pantry needs. However, donations are very welcome because we never know how much is needed each week or how many referral forms will be received. Unfortunately, Tesco has changed the way everyday items are collected and given out. The Pantry has just one day per week to receive this now. Bradwell Butchery generously continue to donate bread twice weekly & sometimes other items on a Saturday.

Thank you to all for showing such generous support for this vital community need. Please pray for The Pantry Households to continue gaining independence & to know how much their Father in Heaven has cared for them through The Church Pantry.

Jim, Colin, Marion
& The Belton Church Pantry Foodbank Team

Young @Heart Report.

Our over 50's group meets weekly, 10-1200hrs, Tuesdays within the church. Our aim is to provide 'coffee, cake and conversation'.

Six team leaders weekly serve on average 20 members.

A quarterly timetable is published, which includes a monthly traditional communion service. Over the last year we have also provided a monthly quiz, sausage and bacon rolls and a fish & chip lunch; and have organised theatre trips for a summer show and pantomime as well as coffee at a local garden centre.

We hosted a resuscitation trainer from East Anglian Air Ambulance who was funny and very informative. We raised funds from member's donations, a raffle at the JGI hall and charitable grants following diligent 'trawling' by our PCC Treasurer Anneka Geary.

Finally, without the volunteers weekly commitment, none of the above would have happened. Thank you, Janet, Linda, Margaret, Shirley and Ken our quizmaster.

Sue Angell

ReFill?

Group for parents/carers and their children 0-5s

It's been two years since starting this group. It's been a joy to see the children playing together and giving space for parents to make friends. Such importance of preparing children for school and enabling them to make positive connections with their peers is something we as a Church should value.

We've seen parents coming along who have recently had their child baptised in our Church or who are going to have their child baptised. We have much appreciated the help from Sue Angel, Rev Viv Ridpath and Revd Rosie Bunn, acknowledging the fact that Viv and Rosie are incredibly busy with their own ministries. It's hard to not feel deflated from the lack of volunteers. This is a great opportunity to give a listening ear to parents and provide support, which sometimes is as simple as sitting down with a cup of tea and just being present.

With grant funding from The National Lottery, we were able to purchase a wooden toddler gate, which is working wonders at keeping the children safe. We are still in the process of purchasing a small soft play cube out of the same pot of funding. Many Thanks to Anneka Gearie who completed and submitted the grant application on behalf of us (as well as the Church). We now endeavour to go through all the toys we have, to clean but also recycle the ones we aren't able to use.

We have seen a few families who come along to ReFill now sometimes join us for Messy Muddy Church, we also continue to invite them to Cafe Church services which are more suited to families with small children.

We have run a few Family Movie afternoons for the families across ReFill and Recharge (plus the wider community), and look forward to offer more with the updated screens and sound system.

Liz Stone (Group led with Anneka Gearie)

Children and Youth

Rock Solid

During 2023, Rock Solid was led by Paula Durrant and Colin Chilvers, assisted by Sam Lowe and Kelly Bancroft, and invited "speakers" including Jim Channell, Derek Mill, Rev Viv Ridpath and myself.

In total over the year there were 21 names of children on the Register but generally attendance was between 11 and 13 each week.

2023 began with Rock Solid using the church for their activities, returning to the Stables after Easter. The children seem to enjoy coming along, many come every week; tuck is an important part!

During the Summer, Paula and Colin spent time improving the decoration of the interior; it remains rather colourful, which the children love. We are grateful to the Village Voice for a grant to enable this to happen.

Christmas is always a fun time at Rock Solid. The children enjoyed their usual Christmas Party and were given small gifts. Decorating the Stables was also a highlight, but it was not just all about them. Gifts for each of the residents of Burgh House were made by the children. They were wooden decorations, cut out by Colin, and decorated by the children with Paula's careful oversight. I am told they were so well received that they have been carefully stored for re-use next year.

The bug hotels and bird boxes made by the children of Rock Solid were installed in the churchyard this year, as part of our award as a Bronze standard Eco Church.

At the end of 2023, Paula handed over the leadership of Rock Solid, and this is currently held by Kelly Bancroft and myself, very ably assisted by Tim Bunn. The boys especially appreciate Tim's contribution playing football.

I must thank Paula for the excellent job she did as leader of Rock Solid, having taken over from Colin Chilvers. Colin, also decided to call it a day at the same time as Paula and I must say a huge thank you to Colin as he was involved in leading the different groups over the years, some 25+ years; long before my arrival.

Rev Rosie Bunn

Sunday Morning Children's Group

The children continue to enjoy their time together on a Sunday morning under the leadership of Kelly Bancroft who, with the support of Antonia Symeou and Adam Stone, as well as Paula Durrant, Shell Horgan and Liz Stone, have provided a time of learning which is fun and effective.

For much of 2023 we had children's activities on two Sundays per month, and a Café-style church developed to enable the children to be involved in the service, with activities provided, sat at tables. At the end of 2023 we began to revert back to the style of Café Church pre-pandemic.

Roots provides the ideas and content for much of the Children's programme, and usually parents and children are covering the same Bible passages and themes.

I am grateful to all who invest their time in preparation and leading the children's work on a Sunday morning, and for all who help.

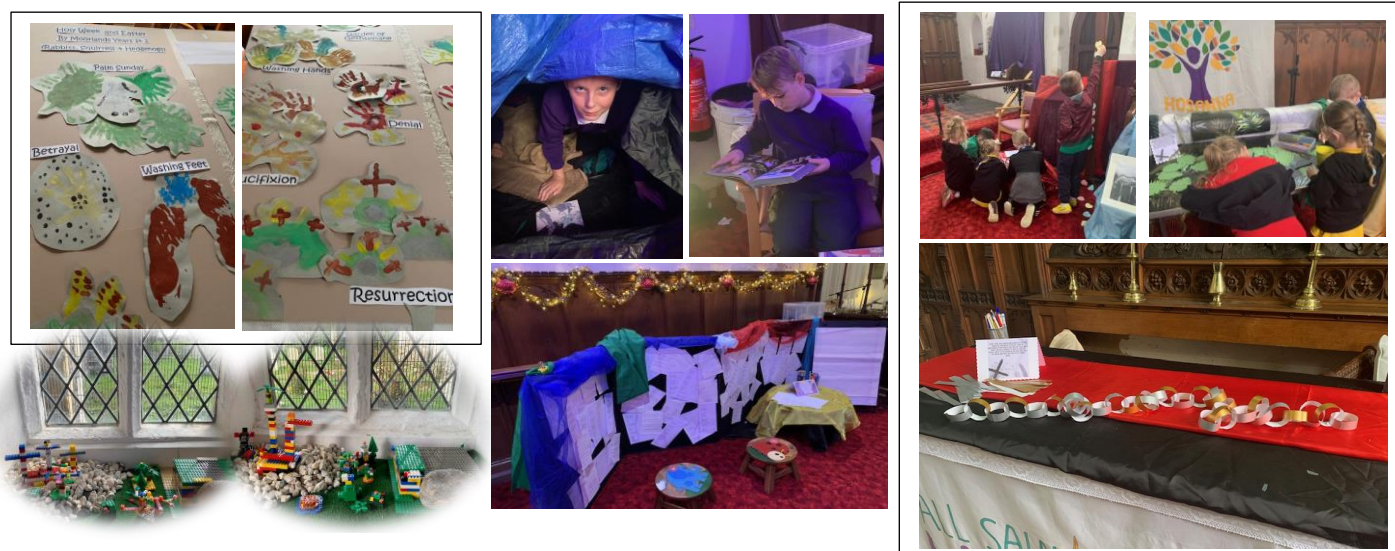
Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy

The church continues to enjoy being involved with Moorlands Primary Academy, which during the year officially joined together with Peterhouse Primary Academy to part of the Ark Federation, remaining in the Diocese of Norwich Education Academy Trust (DNEAT). The Symbiotic relationship developed over the years with the school community continues to bless all involved.



Anneka and Rosie provide collective worship once a week, allowing them to explore key Christian beliefs and their application to today's world. The children also celebrate the festivals of the church calendar in the Church building with the interesting exercise of fitting everyone in as the children get bigger throughout the year.

The enjoyment the children (and new volunteers) have found in the Easter & Christmas Workshops, where each class comes to the church to enjoy and experience activities and a prayer space on the seasonal theme, has been a gratifying highlight of working with the school.



The year six students were enthusiastic upon receiving their Youth Bible gifts at the end of their time at Moorlands. This is a major investment for us as a church and one that we trust will bear fruit in due course. This is something we pray we will be able to continue every year, providing the word of God to every student as they move on to high school.

Rev Rosie Bunn & Anneka Gearie



Messy Muddy Church

We continue to meet in The Rectory Garden on the third Sunday of the month from 4-5.30pm. We are never quite sure how many families will turn up; sometimes we have wondered if we have enough food, on other occasions we have had a feast to share.

Food (and warm drinks on occasion) has been central to our time together: hot dogs, beef burgers and always toasted marshmallows.

We have had such fun outside engaging with creation and worshipping God together; in beautiful sunshine and on dark evenings; covering such themes as creation, harvest, love and hope through activities, exploring the garden, making dens, craft – kinsugi pots, Christmas wreaths, picture frames, cooking earth buns and bread, stories, talking and prayer.



We are praying that this ministry will consolidate and develop in the coming year.



Rev Rosie Bunn

Ecochurch

We continue to be as environmentally friendly as possible, what with recycling, the judicious use of energy for heating and lighting and so on.

However, we find that dead flowers are left in the green wheelie bins, if I see them I remove them and put in black bin. Is there a case for a notice on the green bins pointing people to place such items in the black bins or on the fire heap at the far end of the graveyard.

As the overgrowth has been cut back, is there a case for replanting with '*plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.*' Our Bronze Award was issued on the agreement that we would continue to work towards certain projects. The people managing these have stepped down and if we don't pick them up again we drop enough points that we would no longer meet the requirements of Bronze.

The areas we need to pick up again include:

- land managed for the encouragement of wildlife;
- an area of land set aside for wild flowers;
- area encouraged for members to use for recreational/prayer/picnic use

So if you are interested in pondering these questions and many more (as we are close to silver in some areas, and meet gold in others) please join The Eco Committee (Viv and Anneka !) to discuss.

Anneka Gearie

Prayer, Bible Study and Life Group Reports

Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tuesday) and Engine Room (Saturday)

Tuesday prayer has taken place most weeks at 7:00 a.m. at Derek's house. There have been two of us in regular attendance. We begin by reading the daily prayer written by Derek and then follow this with free prayer, although it has been interesting to see how the free prayer has built so much on the written. We pray regularly for the leadership team, PCC, Young at Heart, Refill and Recharge as well as any individuals or other situations that come to mind.

Engine Room is also a men's prayer group on Saturday, again at Derek's house but starting at 8:30 a.m. again with two in regular attendance. The format is similar to Tuesday but does has an emphasis on praying for the future of the church and its plans.

There have also been a number of walks throughout the year as part of this, leaving the Rectory after a bacon roll and ending with a pint at a pub.

Derek Mill

Monday night Bible Study

Bible study has taken place on most Monday's through the year. A small number take part and commitments have occasionally led to a cancellation. This year we have studied the book of Ephesians, a devotional on "The Promises of God" and most recently "The Bible Course."

We think of the study as "unprepared" as we read the passages and then discuss what those passages mean based on the following:

What does the Bible say? (Observation)

What does the Bible mean? (Interpretation)

What does the Bible mean to me? (Application)

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid or confess?

Is there a reason for thanksgiving or praise?

What does the Bible teach me about: God? Jesus? Myself? Others?

Derek Mill

Recharge

We meet Monday evening from 7:30pm in Adam & Liz' home. We focus on relationships and providing a non-threatening environment where we can talk, discuss and debate whatever is on our minds. Some of our group do not attend Church and would not describe themselves as Christian.

Over the past year, we have led discussions on science, death, Church, mental health, faith, ethics, work problems, sexuality, family life, having kids. We've particularly enjoyed watching clips on science and faith and debating if science and faith are linked or not. We've had evenings around our chimenea with nibbles, and had many discussions about spirituality. It's been interesting to hear people say 'it's possible there's a greater being, something out there' where a year previous this was not the viewpoint. It's encouraging that people feel safe to share when they disagree as well.

We've continued having a games night once every 6 weeks or so, along with this we also had a night out in Great Yarmouth in October and had a Christmas social which included a murder mystery.

It's been great to bond as a group over the last year and a half, being able to depend on each other and trust each other when things are going wrong in our lives, and I am blessed to have such a supportive group.

Liz, Adam, Kelly and Toni

Paddock Close Life Group

This group of up to eleven continues to meet each week, with the aim of growing in our Christian lives. We look at God's word together, and find ourselves regularly challenged by what we read. We have studied some of the names of God, such as Shepherd, Judge, Rock, Redeemer and 'The One who sees' us. What do these descriptions of God's character mean to us today? We joined the rest of the Church in a course giving us an overview of the whole Bible – the whole of God's story from beginning to end. The history in this was fascinating and enlightening for each of us in one way or another, along with questions such as 'what do we learn about God from this, which applies to us now?' There is always something to learn.

We pray together for very different situations we are facing, (personal bereavement, difficult health situations within our families, and no less than two weddings!) We have seen God at work in answer to these prayers, both in quite amazing practical ways, and in recognising the strength and peace He brings throughout.

The group provides a safe place to share not only our joys and sorrows, but also our questions or doubts, openly and without judgement.

Jane Mill

The Rectory Life Group

We remain a small group who enjoy one another's company and supporting each other. We meet together either at the Rectory or Belton Lodge. If anyone feels they would benefit from joining us, please have a word with myself or Tim or any of our group – Jim & Barbie, An Howell, Regi & Reena.

During the Spring we joined together with the other groups as we undertook The Bible Course published by The Bible Society. The course was very well received by all; those who were relatively new to studying the Bible and to those who had been doing so for many years. We found new insights helpful as we explored the big picture of God's story in the Bible.

In the Autumn, we looked at the Beatitudes; what Jesus taught and how they provide invaluable help in living life in the upside down kingdom of God. There is always so much more to discover about the purpose, perspective and promise of the kingdom.

Rev Rosie Bunn

Curate's Report

Last March, with great relief, I handed in my portfolio to the Diocese Director of Studies and set off for a Pilgrimage Trip to Israel. It was a wonderful, albeit exhausting time, visiting so many biblical scenes led by an amazing tour guide and just being with so many pilgrims from all over the world. Special places to visit are too numerous to mention but the River Jordan where Jesus was baptised was special. Please remember the peoples of this area too as tourism has virtually stopped resulting in severe economic hardship.

This year I have continued in part-time ministry including leading worship, pastoral care and occasional offices at both Belton and Burgh Castle. These have included a funeral and three baby baptisms - joyous occasions with families wanting to come to church (especially Café and Messy-Muddy Church) and attend church groups. Easter and Christmas are always busy times with extra services which Rosie and I share in leading.

Other activities include the Easter and Christmas workshops for pupils from Moorlands School, assisting at Young at Heart, Refill and Rock Solid; Prayer Together and Bible Chat; attending licensing services, Cathedral events, the Bishop's Teaching Mornings and of course, meetings!

It seems no time since I was in Israel. A lot has happened since then and I now eagerly await to be signed off and licensed.

Rev Viv Ridpath

Rector's Report

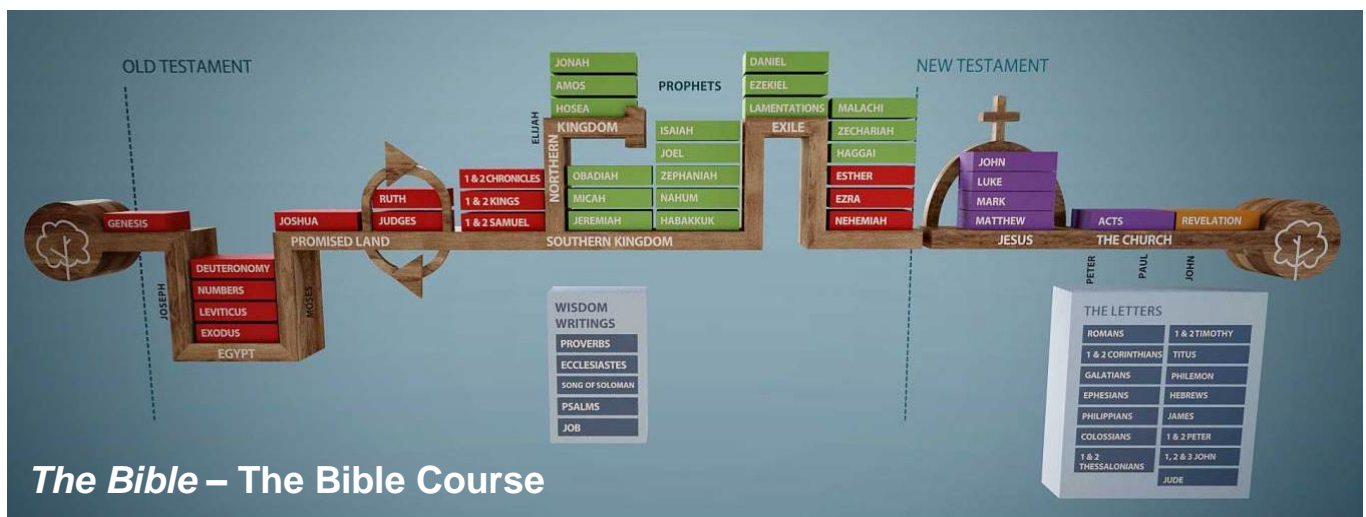
I wonder what stands out in your memories for 2023, in particular what was important in your walk with the Lord during last year?

Of course, it was the year when we felt that we were beginning to “get back to normal” after the pandemic, whatever that might mean. Many things changed during the Covid pandemic; our confidence, mental health and well-being all took a knock in one way or another, and during 2023 we began to recover to varying degrees.

One highlight for me was the coming together of two life groups, and members of the church not regular attenders of such groups to study The Bible Course. It was a joy to look at the big picture of the Bible – the story of God and his relationship with ordinary people.

The God of the Bible is not a remote, unknowable divine force, but a loving God with whom ordinary people develop personal relationships.

There was so much to take in; new ways of interpreting passages; so much background information about history and culture; learning about putting the text in context, all so very well explained by the writer of the course, Andrew Ollerton.



Having more confidence in meeting together included the enjoyment of the Passover Meal and the Sunrise Service at Burgh Castle Roman Fort – as well as our Good Friday walk around the village.

And a special event for the village was celebrating together on the day of King Charles III Coronation, which sadly was a rather wet day and meant the afternoon tea



in the Rectory Garden had to be moved to the church building. Nevertheless, we had a great time, with entertainment, lots of fun and good food, and a full house.



All Saints Church, Belton, is a church that seeks to love God, love people and love life. In many ways the reports and photographs in this Annual Report show the vitality of our life together. And yet, there are many ways in which we can grow and be transformed into the likeness of Christ, through prayer, pastoral care and the prophetic, through study of the Bible and fellowship together, and of course gathering regularly for worship.

We are a church who are blessed with many members who contribute in different ways to the richness and diversity of our life together; using gifts and skills given in service to God and one another. I am thankful for all of you!

- A huge thank you to the intercessors, those who pray regularly and faithfully for the church, the world, our community and individuals and to those who minister in prayer to individuals. Thank you! Prayer is so important, vital – life-giving to us.

- PCC members, thank you for taking seriously your commitment to dealing with the business of the church, tackling the challenges we face, and pulling together during challenging times.
- Anneka Gearie, thank you for all you do, often unseen, to enable the church to function and flourish; for all you do as Treasurer (and more) including the grant applications you have made and been successful in); for your ability to work alongside me in the work with Moorlands Academy, particularly in Collective Worship and the workshops for Easter and Christmas.
- Worship leaders: musicians and vocalists, the PA and AV operators, our intercessors and readers, those who look after the church linen for Communion, our preachers and teachers. Thank you so much for all you have given to the worshipping community of All Saints – you are really appreciated and valued.
- Thank you too, each and every one of you, who help to provide/serve our refreshments each Sunday. I am certainly very grateful for what you do, especially when I come in from taking a service at Burgh Castle.
- I don't want to overlook the hard work of any of you, especially our children's leaders: Sunday morning children's group, Refill!, those who help at Messy Muddy Church and Rock Solid;
- Thank you too, to Michelle Horgan, our Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- There is always much to do in caring for the church building and churchyard; in general maintenance, moving chairs/tables, cleaning and tidying, decorating with flowers, etc. Thank you
- This past year, thanks to the resourcefulness of Bob Hudson, we have had the benefit of the local *Pay Back* Team working in the churchyard, dealing with the overgrown boundaries and clearing away so much rubbish. Their work has transformed the look of the churchyard. Bob, too, has been working on cutting back some of the self-sown saplings, etc.
- Leadership Team thank you for your commitment as we journey together seeking a deeper relationship and a growing understanding of one another and God's call on our lives, and the responsibility he gives us as leaders.
- Those of you who belong to a Life Group will know how important Life groups are; they play an important part in enabling us to care for one another as disciples of Jesus. Leaders, you make such a difference to many people.
- Sharing the gospel happens through various mediums: social media, the website, in the Village Voice, and face to face; thank you to all who share the gospel in our village, and to all who raise funds for the church or charity.
- The Pantry Foodbank Team, who care for people in need on behalf of the church, do their work behind the scenes, quietly and confidentially; reflecting the care and attention that Jesus gave to the poor and needy. Thank you.
- Pastoral carers; those who visit parishioners, continuing the care of the elderly, sick and bereaved; thank you for finding creative ways to continue

this vital care. So much of your work goes unseen by humans but is very much seen and on the heart of God.

Most of all, especially today (21.4.24 – our 45th Wedding Anniversary) I want to thank Tim for all his support to me, personally. I often struggle with the limitations of Rheumatoid Arthritis and a suppressed immune system, and he is the one who picks up what needs to be done, and cares for me. Since Tracey's move at the beginning of 2023, he has had the Rectory garden to look after as well as picking up a number of jobs within the church. Thank you, Tim. What would I do without you?

We have much to celebrate as a church, and as we look forward to all that God has planned for us in 2024, let our prayer be:

*For all that has been, Thank you!
For all that is to come, Yes!"*

Visitors who come into our church building, or see the church in action, are usually much impressed with our facilities, our welcome, and who we are (or who we seek to be) – kingdom people; followers of Jesus. Sometimes we take all this for granted, but I hope we don't take one another for granted; I don't think we do!

I wrote last year.....

Life will no doubt continue to challenge for us, both as individuals and as the church of All Saints, Belton. God is a gracious provider: how do we continue to be generous and gracious when it would be easier to look after ourselves? How as a church might we weather the storms that come our way? How are we able to stand to be a bright witness to the grace and provision of God; to keep the lights on and the building warm? to meet the needs of those in need? to be full of hope for the future?

We can't just be thankful for what we have. If we are to grow (and in nature if something is not growing it is dying) we need to be open to the leading of Holy Spirit and intentionally following Christ. Lord, help us is my prayer.

Our God is a faithful God who has provided for us in many ways. However, we still struggle financially. We have again failed to pay our parish share in full, despite seeking to cut back where we can. I know that the current financial challenges of the church are reflected in our own personal financial challenges of rising prices and housing costs, but please do remember that our church only receives income from our offerings and tithes, and God loves a cheerful giver.

At the end of 2023 we received news that All Saints Church had been successful in a grant application made by Anneka, our Treasurer. The grant was to cover the expenses of keeping the church open and warm for the groups that use it such as

Young at Heart and Refill! It provided money for the Pantry Foodbank, and for equipment needed for Refill to function safely and flourish.

But most significantly, in the coming weeks we shall be improving the sound and audio-visual qualities in the church. New cabling has already been installed and a new PA desk is ready to be put in. In addition, there will be two TV screens which will vastly improve what you see on a Sunday morning during worship. Tim and Anneka have worked together on this project, and we have the faculty approval needed to get it all up and running.

However, with all this new equipment there will need to be patience and grace shown as those who operate it all, learn how it works best. If things don't go as smoothly as you would like, please bear with them.

I find this description of the early church, found in Acts 2: 42-47, inspirational, and shows what is possible with a depth of relationship between Christ's followers and Christ himself.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Yes, they lived in different times, but the principles of devotion, awe, commitment, fellowship and prayer contributed to the quality of their life together. May God bless us in the coming year, and may we grow closer to him and closer to one another in 2024.

Together, we might pray the prayer that follows, not just today but regularly throughout the year. Let your kingdom come, Lord!

Rev Rosie Bunn

A prayer by Malcolm Duncan, taken from his book *"Flipped"*

Our God and our King – let your kingdom come!
Thank you for your kingdom in all of its beauty and power – let your kingdom come!
Thank you for the call to be your subjects. Help us to celebrate and live under your
headship and rule, King Jesus – let your kingdom come!
Help us to lean into and rely on your power, Holy Spirit – let your kingdom come!
Help us, in all that we are and in all that we do, to live for your glory, Father – let your
kingdom come!
May we show people our King -- let your kingdom come!
May we live as your people – let your kingdom come!
May we give ourselves to your purpose – let your kingdom come!
May we look at the world with your perspective – let your kingdom come!
May we hold on to your vision – let your kingdom come!
Your Son is our King. He is life to us, and without him we can do nothing. So give us
the faith to believe that you have not finished with us and that he is still at work in us.
We welcome the prodding and prompting of your Holy Spirit and we pray that you
would give us sanctified and redeemed imaginations – let your kingdom come!
Help us to dream again for you – let your kingdom come!
Help us to let go again for you – let your kingdom come!
Help us to step into the unknown again for you – let your kingdom come!
Where we are jaded, shake away our cynicism – let your kingdom come!
Where we are hurt, bring health – let your kingdom come!
Where we are frightened, release faith – let your kingdom come!
Where we are weary, bring fresh energy – let your kingdom come!
Where we are confused, bring wisdom – let your kingdom come!
Where we are broken, use our fragility to shine your grace into the world – let your
kingdom come!
In our lives, in our homes, in our streets, in our communities, in our church, in our
nations, in our world, – let your kingdom come!

Our Father
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name!
Thy kingdom come!
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory,
For ever and ever,
Amen

Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young
people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Michelle Horgan
Role: Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 01493 789048
E-mail: michelle.horgan012@gmail.com

Name: _____
Role: _____
Tel: _____
E-mail: _____

Name: Sue Brice
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 07958377079
E-mail: safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org

Local Authority Social Services:

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0800 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0800 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0800 800 2222
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0800 2000 247
- Action On Elder Abuse: 0800 8808 8141

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding