

ANNUAL REPORT FOR HOE & WORTHING CIVIL PARISH MEETING 2023-2024
PARISH OF SAINT MARGARET, WORTHING

During all or part of 2023, the following served:

PASTORAL SCHEME & FUTURE MINISTRY: Heart of Norfolk Churches Group (HONC) is made up of 13 parishes, which Worthing St Margaret is part of. Originally only 6 churches were grouped together however since 2017 this was formally developed into a Team Ministry incorporating the former Foulsham Group, Bawdeswell and Foxley. Initially, the HONC group was led by one Team Rector, two part time Team Vicars and one Licensed Lay Minister. Sadly, with the retirement of one part time Team Vicar and the other reassigned to another deanery, the Team Rector has encompassed full responsibility across the HONC Group. Recruitment to date has been unsuccessful.

CHURCHWARDENS: Mrs Celia Daniel & Mrs Miranda Smith

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Mrs Celia Daniel also continues as PCC Secretary, Treasurer & Fabric Officer.

Mrs Miranda Smith continues as Electoral Roll officer for the church.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER

There were no incidents to report during the year. The PCC has complied with their duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Online training modules have been completed.

BACKGROUND The PCC has the responsibility of working in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, the Diocese of Norwich leadership and the Team Rector in promoting the whole Mission and Ministry of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

In addition to carrying out these responsibilities during year, thanks are also expressed to Sharon Colk, Nancy Blake, Katie Mayes, Tracey Green, Christine Skipper and Miranda Smith for their less formal but recognisably important support with cleaning and with flower arranging in the church.

CHURCH SERVICES It is normal for Worthing to regularly receive 1 Holy Communion Service and 1 Morning Prayer Service each month both starting at 10.30am followed by refreshments.

For the year, there were 25 whereas normally 24 services would be scheduled. These together with life events include:

2 x funerals

1 x internment of ashes

1 x Wedding

1 x Harvest Praise in September with the food distributed to Mid Norfolk Foodbank and the offertory donated to "WaterAid."

1 x Remembrance Sunday in November, the offertory was donated to "BLESMA" for Limbless Veterans.

1 x Group Service attended by 16 adults and 1 child.

And 1 Carol Service attended by 19 parishioners and 3 children leading the storytelling of The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Holy Week was once again supported with 30+ Students – Pilgrim Cross taking part in the Pilgrimage route to Walsingham. We anticipate their return in 2025.**CHURCH ATTENDANCE** - we maintained an average of 9 per service. Maintaining this attendance is partly due to some churches within HONC not open fully and other visitors.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL - the formal register of members of the Church recorded an increase from 8 to 10 representing 100 parishioners in this Parish.

BUSINESS Although the PCC met formally on 2 occasion during the year, several ad-hoc briefings took place with the Rector and committee members.

CHURCH FINANCES Our grateful thanks to Mr Flack for this important function and certifying the parish accounts as correctly maintained. The Church's activities are under-pinned by finances and the Treasurer with the PCC has the responsibility of ensuring that the finances are dealt with according to the regulations which apply to the Church as a charity. The committee members together with our local community are thanked for their fund-raising and financial support during this difficult year which, given the cost-of-living conditions endured by all, was tremendous. The PCC recognised and reaffirmed the wider outreach potential of some fund-raising activities as a future strategy particularly so as the heating system within the Church requires replacement costing approx £20K.

FABRIC OFFICERS' REPORT Celia Daniel regularly monitors the fabric of the building. A small group of skilled parishioners have worked tirelessly to support the building with minor repairs and church yard maintenance of St Margaret's. For example, repairs

to Oak Louvres in Tower, renovation of chest and pews, clearance of gutters and repairs to roof. We wish to acknowledge our sincere thanks to Richard Crisp, Lawrence Williams, Tony Langford, Ben Butler and John Phillips for their help in these areas. The Heating in St Margaret's has yet to be replaced therefore currently supported by standalone infra heating donated by St Andrew's Church, Hingham. The replacement units costing in the region of £20K, of which £10K has been ring-fenced from the Parish Accounts, the remaining to be sourced via grant funding.

Our last Quinquennial Inspection took place in November 2023 which was carried out by our appointed Church Architect & Surveyor, Ruth Blackman. Work required has been categorised accordingly to urgency and will be addressed when possible and where finances permit.

- A- Urgent, requiring immediate attention est. £80.00
- B- Requires attention within 12 months est. £13K max.
- C- Requires attention within the next 18-24 months est. £8K max.
- D- Requires attention within the quinquennial period est. £4K max.
- E- A desirable improvement with no time scale est. £10K max.
- M- Routine items of maintenance est.£500. max.

The management of the church yard is usually supplemented with the support from Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC) Community Payback Unit (CPU) and funded by the Hoe & Worthing Parish. The Community Payback unit were unable to visit this year. However, the continued support from Tony Langford, Ben Butler and John Phillips in managing the churchyard has made this area easier & safer to access. The PCC wish to express our thanks for their help in this area.

WORTHING PARISH INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT and FUTURE NEEDS - The Team Rector and Churchwarden (in no order of priority) report the following.

CHURCH SERVICES – to stay relevant and respect the mix of generations in Worthing, a blend of Modern Common Worship formats and the introduction of Iona Community services were used in our services. An electronic keyboard is available to use on occasions to support the programme of worship and other special services. Until Wi-Fi becomes available in our location the provision of an iPlayer and CDs for music continues to be our main source for all music and hymns provided.

COMMUNICATION We are incredibly grateful to the editors of The Elmham News and The Link monthly booklets, and to thank Sharon Colk delivering materials within Worthing and Danny Danson for providing website support which is vital to regularly publish our News.

The parish also links up with the Round Towers – administered by Michael Pollitt which offers potential benefit to many visitors wishing, thank you to all. The production and distribution of posters and flyers, and the electronic distribution of the Norwich Diocese e-news, HON e-bulletin and Facebook page all together enhance our communication together with the use of the church and parish notice boards generally. At the start of 2024, Facebook page for St Margaret's sharing ongoing News and Events was established.

OUTREACH GLOBALLY, IN THE COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES – OTHER FUNDRAISING

The Bishop's Lent Diocesan Appeal 2023 was launched in memory of the former Archdeacon of Lynn, The Venerable Ian Bentley who was diagnosed with cancer and died later that year. In his final days, Ian was cared for by staff at the current Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich. The appeal was launched to help raise funds for a new lodge building to increase capacity for those in need of this specialised care approaching their end of life.

St Margaret's continues to remain committed to supporting the work of all charities including Norfolk Churches Trust and Round Towers. Harvest Praise and Remembrance Sunday are normal Sunday Services and were well attended. The congregation continued to support and contribute to Mid Norfolk Food Bank, WaterAid and BLESMA.

The Norfolk Churches Trust Bike/Stride in 2023. Given this was an outdoor event, we were able to welcome cyclists and walkers from around the district. And, approaching Christmas time, St Margaret's PCC encouraged the Benefice congregations and parishioners to get involved with our annual Samaritans Purse appeal. Christmas shoeboxes were packaged and despatched to children around the world. Our thanks go to everyone from Worthing and neighbouring parishes who supported this very important piece of work.

Special thanks are also expressed to all Worthing parishioners and supporters from the Group and across neighbouring villages who supported fundraising events during the year. The Annual Easter Sunday Duck race packed with families and toddlers in push chairs, May Cream Tea afternoon, Christmas themed event "Christmas Spirit" including a Christmas Raffle closed our year's events, all being very popular.

Our hope is to build on all events and bring together those that would not normally attend a typical Sunday Service but experience something different and supportive.

Celia Daniel & Miranda Smith – Churchwardens, 30th May 2024