**Report for Brundall Parish Council Annual Meeting [Yare Valley Churches]**

Whilst the church, along with the rest of the UK, have been coming to terms with an ever-changing set of COVID rules and regulations over the past year, there have been many highlights –

**Cafes**

All our cafes have been able to remain open and we acknowledge the hard work of the team of volunteers in adapting to the changing regulations.

It has been good, through our cafes, to be able to help combat social isolation and loneliness, support those on the dementia pathway and their carers through our Forget Me Not Café, support the young people through the youth café and also provide a place of connection with our Toddler Café.

The ParkRun continues to be a highlight of the week with the green catering pod making it’s weekly visit to the Brundall Countryside Park. We are delighted to be able to support this fantastic community event and thank the organisers for their continued support.

All the cafes are staffed by volunteers and any income is reinvested in providing support for the local community.

**Sports Work**

Tom Woods continues to head up the sports aspect of the work of the church; connecting with the schools, working with the recreation and wellbeing subcommittee of the Parish Council, running after schools clubs and the monthly sports café as well as leading ‘armchair aerobics’ for our dementia café clients.

**Anna Chaplaincy**

The church has appointed two Anna Chaplains who work specifically with the older generation offering support and signposting to relevant support agencies. They also lead monthly services in each of the care homes (when covid restrictions allow).

**Services**

Our services have all started again following the break caused by COVID and we look forward to celebrating Easter at the end of the week.

**EcoChurch**

Earlier this year, we were awarded the bronze EcoChurch award for the work we are already undertaking to reduce the impact of the church on the environment. All areas of church life have made addressing climate change a high priority in their planning for this coming year. We are now working towards the silver award.

**Transport**

We continue to offer transport to anyone who is needing to travel to appointments and social events. This transport is offered free of church and is staffed by volunteers.

We are currently exploring purchasing another WAV to increase capacity.

**Partnership**

We have been delighted to be able to continue to work closely in partnership with the Memorial Hall Trustees and also the Parish Council. Working in collaboration with others for the benefit of the local community has been an important feature of our work over the years. We continue to seek collaborative working when it is possible and in particular in those areas that impact the wider community.

As. Church, we have begun a new partnership with the parishes of Woodbastwick and Ranworth, supporting and developing them as they currently have no vicar.

**Buildings and Churchyards**

We seek to make our buildings and churchyards as accessible as possible.

A prayer trail has been set up in Braydeston churchyard and plans of underway for identifying areas within the churchyards which can be managed as conservation areas to encourage the diversity of flora and fauna. These green spaces have become important areas for our community to be able to draw breath, relax and reflect – particularly as the amount of green space within and around Brundall has reduced in recent years.

The churches continue to be open everyday and Braydeston and Postwick have automatic door locks fitted.

The redevelopment of the site at St Laurence, Brundall is still ongoing and a response from the planning department at Broadland is expected at any time.

**Change of Leadership:**

After 8 and a half years as Rector of the Yare Valley Churches, Peter is leaving to become the Deputy Director of Mission and Ministry in the Ely Diocese. Peter, Paula-Marie and the family have really appreciated the way the community has welcomed them and embraced them over the years. They have really working with and serving the local community and have many fond memories that they will cherish as they move to new challenges.

All should be ‘business as usual’ and events such as holiday club, bus pass holiday club (activities for the more mature!) and the annual Remembrance Service and Armistice service at the Shard should continue as in previous years.

The Diocese of Norwich has begun the recruitment process and an advert will go out soon. The Diocese would like to make a new appointment as soon as possible. Until that time, the leadership team of the Yare Valley Churches will continue to hold the fort with key people overseeing areas of church life:

Buildings and Churchyards: Tom Morgan

Partnerships: Libby Morgan

Worship services: Vicky Gaskin

Cafes and Community Support: Patrick Beales

Finance: Gillian Groat

Lisa Taylor continues as our resource manager (yvc@dioceseofnorwich.org)

Tom Woods continues as our Sports Minister (sportsministry@dioceseofnorwich.org)

Matt Luscombe continues as our curate (Matt.Luscombe@dioceseofnorwich.org)