

Report for Brundall Parish Council Annual Meeting 2024 [Yare Valley Churches]

Following Peter Leech's departure in April 2022, our Sports Minister Tom Woods and our Curate Matt Luscombe both left us for pastures new in 2023. This reduction in personnel has meant some activities have been curtailed or paused, but we've carried on offering as many of our community activities as possible.

Our Cafes

Our various cafes continue to flourish, helping to combat social isolation and loneliness. Our Tuesday afternoon Forget Me Not Café supports those on the dementia pathway, and parents and pre-school children are welcomed at our Toddler Café on Tuesday mornings during term-time. Our Monday and Thursday Community Cafes were designated as "Warm Spaces" during the winter months, offering a friendly atmosphere, a warm welcome and a free hot drink.

Since Matt's departure we take the Catering Pod to the Park Run twice a month, rather than every week. The atmosphere is always friendly, and it is great to have a presence and be involved in this village event. It is a fruitful relationship, as they have been generous in their support of our Community Pantry with donations of food as well as other items.

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

Sports Ministry and Youth Work

With Tom Woods and Matt Luscombe no longer with us our Sports Café ministry at The Memorial Hall ended in July last year, and our weekday Youth Cafes have had to be paused for the time being. We are hopeful that we can restart the Youth Cafes in September. Despite smaller numbers in 2023 our children's "Restoration Station" Summer Holiday Club was a great success, and we're hoping to be able to run another Holiday Club week this summer, at the end of August.

Anna Chaplaincy

Our Anna Chaplaincy team work specifically with the older generation offering support and signposting to relevant support agencies. They lead monthly services in each of the care homes in the village, and organise our annual Bus Pass Holiday Club – a week of activities and trips out for older people in the community.

Community Pantry

Last year we established a Community Pantry in the extension at St Laurence Church – open every Monday morning from 10am to 1pm, available for anyone in need to come and take foodstuffs / toiletries. There is no need for referrals, anyone can come and help themselves, no questions asked. Donations of either money or foodstuffs are always welcome.

Church Services

Our current service pattern is:

1st and 3rd Sundays 8.30am – Morning Prayer or Holy Communion at St Laurence, Brundall.

Sundays 10am - Sunday Worship, usually at St Laurence, Brundall we'll be at All Saints, Postwick on the 1st Sundays in May and June.

1st Tuesday of the month 2pm - Forget Me Not dementia-friendly service at St Laurence, Brundall.

Thursdays 9.30am - Midweek Worship or Holy Communion at St Laurence, Brundall.

EcoChurch

In 2022 we were awarded the bronze Eco Church award for the work we are already undertaking to reduce the impact of the church on the environment, and are working towards the silver award.

Buildings and Churchyards

We seek to make our buildings and churchyards as accessible as possible. These green spaces have become important areas for our community to be able to draw breath, relax and reflect.

Postwick and Brundall churches continue to be open every day, and have automatic door locks fitted. Following some security concerns last autumn Braydeston church has been kept locked over the winter months, with the key available on request. We're hoping that we can open it again over the summer months.

Partnership

We continue to seek collaborative working when it is possible and in particular in those areas that impact the wider community.

A New Rector

After a two year vacancy we are pleased to announce that the Revd Dave Hanson, currently Vicar of Preston St Stephen in the Diocese of Blackburn, has accepted the offer to become our next Rector, and will be joining us in the summer.

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: Keith Gerrard

Cafes and Community Support: Patrick Beales

Finance: Gillian Groat

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

Janet Moorse is our parish administrator (admin@yarevalleychurches.org.uk, phone 01603 715136) working in the parish office on Monday and Thursday mornings.