

Halvergate with Tunstall Parochial Church Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Rector, Rev. Martin Greenland, and members of Halvergate with Tunstall Parochial Church Council were responsible for the Church activities in Halvergate and Tunstall and for the maintenance of the building of St Peter and St Paul, Halvergate.

MEMBERSHIP

INCUMBENT	Rev. Martin Greenland	
CHURCHWARDEN	Mr. Nick Butcher	Vice Chairman
DEANERY SYNOD	Mrs. P Butcher	
ELECTED MEMBERS	Mrs. S. Blake	Electoral Roll Secretary
	Mrs. P. Butcher	Treasurer, Secretary
	Mrs N. Cann	Minute Secretary
	Mrs F. Collins	
	Mrs S More	safeguarding, gift aid, sidesman, clergy wellbeing rep
	Mr. C. Reader	sidesman

SERVICES:

1st Sunday 9-30am Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday 9-30am Holy Communion

4th Sunday 9-30am Matins

Morning Prayer has been led by Nicholas Cowen; Holy Communion by the Rector, and Matins by the Churchwarden. We welcomed the Dean for the Communion service in July and Sister Elizabeth Pio gave the address at Matins in November.

On the 2nd and 5th Sunday there was a Benefice Service.

The Book of Common Prayer has again been used for services with readings from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible except for Christmas when the King James Version was used.

Special Services in the Parish:

- 2 Benefice Services- The 5th Sunday in July and Maundy Thursday.

- Easter Eve at Tunstall
- Lammas at Tunstall (Morning Prayer) led by Nicholas Cowen
- Remembrance Sunday following the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial
- Service of Lessons and Carols.

Freethorpe Methodist Chapel again hosted a memorial service on Remembrance Sunday but as some parishioners from Wickhampton and Freethorpe attended Halvergate, names from Wickhampton and Freethorpe as well as Halvergate were read out at the memorial. Brownies, Guides and Rainbows attended.

Members of the congregation attended two joint services with the Methodist congregation – January at Freethorpe Methodist and Freethorpe Church in August.

A Christmas Leaflet was distributed to all houses in the village. The Carol Service, preceded by refreshments was held at 6pm on the Friday before Christmas and attracted 50 people which, apart from when we hosted the Benefice choir, was a record attendance for several years. It was decided not to have Christmas Midnight service as this was only attended by two members of the congregation in 2022.

Lent reflections were led by the Sisters of Bethany at Tunstall Church and were attended by members of the Halvergate Congregation.

Average attendances at Sunday services was 10 but some weeks was very low at 6 and even one when there was only 4 including the officiant.

Organists have been Brenda Pawsey (for Matins) and Ian Hytch who travelled from Norwich for Communion. Michael Nicholas played on Remembrance Sunday,

Occasional Offices: There were four funeral services, two with Burial in Halvergate churchyard and two with cremation. There were three weddings.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There were 11 people on the electoral roll.

OTHER EVENTS

The Church has been open daily for visitors from 10am to 4pm. John and Frances Collins have been responsible for unlocking and Doug Blake for locking the Church building.

The service at Tunstall Church on Lammas Sunday was followed by breakfast and the Easter Fire preceded by drinks at the home of Robert and Sally More. .

The refreshments were provided at the March, August and October sessions of the Acle Farmers Market

John Collins and Graham Cann cycled in the Churches Bike Ride and raised nearly £200 for Halvergate Church, which will show in the 2024 finances.

The Benefice Christian Link group met in the Summer months and was attended by ladies from the Parish. .

'Open the Book', dramatizing Bible stories, has been undertaken by an Ecumenical Benefice Group in Reedham and Freethorpe Schools and supported by Halvergate members for several years. The group started to use a new handbook and set of stories, especially written for the initiative, in September. There was also three new members following the loss of two members of the team.

Freethorpe School used the Church for a carol concert, which was again smaller in attendance than in some previous years.

Following the unveiling of the Memorial to the airmen lost over the Marshes, details of those involved are kept on the table at the back of the Church.

P.C.C.

Three P.C.C. meetings of Halvergate with Tunstall were held, plus a short one straight after the joint Annual Parochial Church meeting. The meeting for election of Churchwardens was held after Matins in March and the joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May at Reedham Parish Church.

Halvergate was represented at Benefice and Deanery meetings and on the Clergy and Well-being initiative.

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A report was given at PCC meetings. The Benefice Safeguarding officers regularly meet. Sally More was our Safeguarding Officer.

FINANCE

The Parish Share for the Benefice in 2022 was increased to £70420 and

capital reserves to make good the shortfall, taking into account provision which needs to be made for essential expenditure in the near future.

Insurance was again paid monthly. Tax recovered under Gift Aid increased to £1448.94

£693.50 was credited to us from the 2022 Bike ride. £144.57 was raised at the Acle Farmers Market with an extra £106.36 as a share of the profit from the Market..

The year opened with a balance of £511.84 in the current account and closed with £ 597.45. The Capital account opened with £7914.22, and after the transfer for Village Hall valuation closed with £6103.86. The other Accounts are restricted. The Fabric Fund opened with a balance of £5649.1 and after paying for some roof work and receiving a donation closed with £4333.34. The Hewitt Fund (Graveyard) remained at £1153.79. The Organ Fund increased by £1.08 to £1160.21. Interest on these accounts all improved on 2022 levels.

The Parish Council has paid for grass cutting in both Churchyards - for which the PCC is most grateful.

Doug Blake was the Independent Examiner of the Church books

FABRIC

Freya Jennings, a teenager in the village, has cleaned the Church weekly.

The tiled roof of the chancel needs replacement. Temporary repairs were carried out. Further costs will be met by the Church Commissioners on behalf of the Dean & Chapter of the Cathedral and tenders from contractors are pending.

In December the wall in front of the South side of the Church collapsed. For safety reasons the Fabric Officer put a temporary fence around the site whilst options of either repairing, rebuilding or demolishing the wall are investigated.

During the year, testing of fire extinguishers took place. Five other Churches in the benefice used the same contractor which reduced costs. The Lightning Conductor was inspected and Electrical PAT testing was undertaken. The Gutters were not cleaned until the beginning of 2024.



On behalf of the P.C.C.
Lay Vice Chairman

23rd April 2024