

Parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Brookfield  
Stokesley Deanery - Diocese of York

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

**1. Electoral Roll Report**

At the APCM on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 the number of Parishioners on the Electoral Roll was 63.

During the 2022 Electoral Roll Review 2 names have been added since we have welcomed Mrs. Sandra Beck and Mrs. Susan Blewitt into our church family.

No names have been removed,

The number of parishioners on the electoral roll now stands at 65  
*Olwen Hopkins, Electoral Roll Officer*

**2. PCC Report**

PCC SECRETARY - JANET GRANVILLE

PCC VICE-CHAIR - OLWEN HOPKINS

PCC REPRESENTATIVES - FLORENCE HARRIS (TREASURER) AND JANET GRANVILLE

PRESENT MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO ABOVE

GRAHAM WILSON - CHURCHWARDEN

WENDY WILSON

BETTY SPRAGG

GRACE WHITEHEAD

MARGARET ROUTLEDGE

LINDA NIXON

MARGARET LEWIS

We now hold regular meetings in person. Issues raised are dealt with or are ongoing until resolved. We would love to have new PCC members. If you are interested application forms are available at the back of the church.

Please contact any of the above members for more information about the role of a PCC member.  
*Janet Granville, PCC Secretary*

**3. Churchwardens Report**

Firstly, can I say a big “thank you” to members of the PCC for the support given to me over the last 12 months. In particular it is appropriate to thank Florence Harris for the exceptional work and contribution made in ensuring our finances are maintained in good order. Also, to Janet and Malcolm Granville for tremendous and continued efforts they make in so many aspects of the church life.

Whereas the relaxation of Covid restrictions has enabled several of the Electoral Roll members to return to regular worship we do need to concentrate our efforts in attracting new and younger members to our church. There is a particular absence of male members participating in church activities which generally means all of the Donkey work is left to Malcolm Granville and the Churchwarden. Much of the general maintenance work around the church could be achieved if this issue could be resolved.

As the year has progressed and despite the modern appearance of the building there have been several issues requiring attention and still much to do to ensure the longevity of the fabric. Fortunately, we have been able to finally resolve the church audio system and can now enjoy clarity of sound throughout both the church proper and hall. The visual system remains unresolved

and will require professional assistance in order to restore its use without disturbing the audio system.

During last summer the church received several complaints concerning the swarming of bees the source of which was seen to be originating from the church roof. Investigation identified the existence of a nest in the roof which was causing beeswax to stain the internal ceiling and causing some cracking of the plasterboard. Investigations led to the identification of a 7foot by 2foot nest which requires removing to prevent further damage. A specialist contractor has been appointed and the nest will be removed in early May this year.

Improvements have been made to the church heating system albeit some further attention is required. Three radiators appear to be beyond repair hence the intention is to remove operating radiators from the church office and choir vestry to replace the faulty units and providing small portable heaters in their place. This will save in the region of £1800 for the cost of new radiators.

The church organ has been serviced and functions well. Servicing is recommended every 2 years and will be necessary in 2023.

Thanks to the kind donation from the Fox family the church main door and vestry door have been stripped of varnish and sanded. These will be left to weather before applying oil. Notwithstanding the foregoing all of the external woodwork requires attention once church funds become available.

There has been a significant reduction in overnight parking in the church car park and subject to maintaining this situation and ongoing control it is probably unnecessary to install barriers at the entrances to the car park. The car park lighting and lights above the hall and office entrance have been renewed with dusk-to-dawn units. The original fittings were found to be beyond repair, and incorrect cabling had been used resulting in the plastic covering becoming brittle, breaking, and exposing the copper wiring.

Hiring of the Church Hall has been renewed with most of the original organisers and with the addition of several new groups. The revenue from this source is an extremely essential component of the church's finances.

It is appropriate to make members of the Electoral Roll aware of the distinction between: Brookfield Parish activities; and those of the Plurality (the three Parishes of Brookfield, Stainton with Hemlington, and Hilton). There has been an underlying assumption by the Parish churches that due to the Plurality office being located at Brookfield that business and organisational issues affecting all three parishes i.e., the Plurality is the responsibility of the Churchwarden at Brookfield. Urgent attention is required to address how the management of the Plurality is to be achieved and formalised for the future. There are issues which affect the Plurality which require immediate attention. We have after much discussion achieved a more appropriate sharing of the financial contribution made by each Parish in the Plurality to the Plurality costs.

*Graham E Wilson, Churchwarden*

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The accounts for 2021 show an excess of income over expenditure of £7,910. This amount was the result of the refund of Gift Aid due from 2019, of £4,411, and also being able to let the hall once again from September. We also had fund raising events which raised £1,389.

Once again the accounts were independently examined by Mr Dennis Ford.

The Quota agreed for the payment to the Diocese was agreed by the PCC to be £1,000 per month, but we hope to make a one-off payment later in the year, if possible.

Our charity giving for 2021 was only £150, but this was due to the pandemic but from January 2022 we restarted our monthly Sunday collections.

It has been a better year (work-wise) for me as I now have our Churchwarden's considerable support with this job, so I would like to thank him; and also my husband Ray who does all my typing for me.

*Florence Harris, Treasurer*

## **5. Parish Child Protection / Safeguarding Representative's Report**

Brookfield PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the *Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016* (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

There has been much in the news recently about child abuse, including within the Church of England; I hardly need to remind you that Child Protection and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults is everybody's business, and that we need to ensure that St Margaret's Church and Hall are safe places for vulnerable people to be. The APCM will wish to know that the PCC is developing procedures for this including a coherent set of Safer Recruitment documents.

The PCC's Safeguarding Policy Statement was last reviewed and approved at its meeting on 8/7/2019 and signed off by the Vicar and the Secretary; a copy of this Safeguarding Policy Statement was sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 28/9/2019 and also displayed in the Church. **This Policy Statement will need to be reviewed and approved early on by the new PCC after the APCM.**

The Parish Safeguarding file, which can be found in the Church, contains copies of the Parish Policy and copies of documentation from the Diocese and the Church of England including copies of the House of Bishops' Policy Statements.

The Parish has signed up to the on-line DBS checking service operated by the Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). **Those members of the Church in Positions of Trust have DBS checks which are now more than five years old and, because the PCC holds the weekly term-time pre-school/toddler drop-in, these will need to be renewed, or applied for *de novo*, as a matter of urgency.** My own DBS Check (Enhanced with checks of both Child and Adult Barring Lists) was renewed in Nov 2020.

Confidential information relating to safeguarding is **kept securely in the Church safe at St Peter and St Paul, Stainton** (one of our sister Parishes).

The Church of England has "gone live" with its refreshed on-line Safeguarding Training programme comprising:

- the **Basic Awareness Pathway Training** which all members of the Church, including PCC members, are encouraged to undertake; and
- the **Foundation Pathway Training**, to be undertaken by Churchwardens and PCC members, and those working with children and/or vulnerable adults.

This on-line training can be reached via the CofE Safeguarding Training portal at this URL: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php> where you will be able to register for a free user account. The PSR is able to assist those members of St Margaret's Brookfield who are not "Techsavvy" to undertake this training. In addition to the on-line training the Diocese provides face-to-face training for the **Leadership Pathway Training** which is aimed at leaders of children's and vulnerable adults' groups/activities. The PSR and the Vicar completed this Pathway in January 2022; **the Pre-school/Toddler Drop-in leaders will need to undertake this Pathway in the first half of 2022.**

*Bob Ardley, Brookfield Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR)*

## **6. Deanery Synod Report**

Up to two members of the Brookfield PCC are entitled to represent the Parish on the Stokesley Deanery Synod. At present, St. Margaret's Church, Brookfield has no Deanery Synod Representatives. This provides the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the church. This year the PCC has also focused its attention on the questions posed to parishes in the Deanery about the most effective deployment of stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy.

The Deanery Synod met on three occasions during 2021; the main topics for discussion were:

16th March 2021 - online via "Zoom"

Departure of the Area Dean, Revd Clay Roundtree for a post in Grantham, Lincolnshire; Changes in Parishes (structures and clergy); consultation with the Deanery about the Diocese's renewed strategy and vision known as "Living Christ's Story (LCS)"; the regular update on Funding the Mission in the Diocese.

17th June 2021 - online via "Zoom"

Welcome to the new Area Dean, Revd Tessa Stephens, Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe and the new Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) – Lay Dean John Dickinson; Secretary Liz Taylorson, Clergy Rep Revd Paul Peverell, Lay Rep Roy Parsonage, Deanery Treasurer Bob Ardley (co-opted), and Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA) (ex officio) vacancy to be filled by the Archdeacon.

14th October 2021 – in person at St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe:

Recent appointments to Parishes in the Deanery; the future direction of the Deanery, in particular LCS; Environmental issues (Eco Church) led by Revd Geoff Jacques our "Green Dean"; and a refresh of the Deanery website and the launch of the Deanery Bulletin.

*Bob Ardley, Deanery Synod Rep, Stainton with Hemlington PCC*

## **7. Vicar's Report for 2022 APCM**

Once again, can I say a huge thank you to everyone for all the incredibly hard work over the last year, which has continued to present challenges in various ways. We managed to battle our way through another couple of lockdowns, and live-stream services, as well as meet via zoom, and it was wonderful to be able to do that. We continued to try to keep everyone as safe as possible whilst in church, through careful cleaning, wearing of masks, hand sanitising, and socially distancing. We have relaxed the rules a lot now, however I am trying to keep the Eucharist as safe as possible, and therefore continuing to intinct the Host for people and wear a mask whilst distributing communion.

Our numbers have been steadily rising again, and this is wonderful, with some new faces on occasions. The issues of sickness and ill-health, inability to get to church due to mobility problems, and people continuing to fear returning, among other reasons, are still on-going at the present time. We were able to have our Christmas services and we looked forward to the services in Holy Week, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We are beginning to consider ourselves against the LYCiG (Leading Your Church into Growth) material and framework, and also how we go about Living Christ's Story. There are also changes afoot within the deanery, and we are embarking on a change of our structures. How this will look within the deanery and the diocese is not entirely clear yet, and the vision is still being discerned.

We continue to be tested financially, although we have managed to maintain our free will offer this year. Rising energy prices are a massive cause for concern, and we need to continue to exercise wise stewardship. We were able to hold a fund-raising event to purchase the material for a new altar cloth, to replace the current disintegrating one which has served the church well over the last few decades. We are also considering how we are going to fund the infestation of the bee hive removal. This, together with God's continuing abundant and outrageous generosity can encourage us to continue to look to the future with trust that He will provide.

## St Margaret of Scotland, Brookfield – 2021 Annual Report for 2022 APCM

Huge thanks must go to Graham and Florence for their tremendous time, effort and energy in sorting out some of the problems with the finances, budgets, the building, tidying and clearing a backlog of rubbish, sorting out the sound system, and a great deal of other things too. Graham has been covering the Plurality. Not forgetting the commitment of Janet and Malcolm with various aspects of our church life, including keeping our stocks of resources up to date, ensuring minutes are recorded and correct, and selecting and programming the hymns for our services.

It is good that we are able to hire out the hall once again for private groups and activities. We were able to start a new Baby & Toddler Group over the last few months, and we now have around 10 attending regularly, with others on occasions. This was only possible due to the volunteering of Olwen, Hazel, Lynn, and on occasions Rev Jane, who have invested so much time, energy and commitment into making it a success.

The Thursday drop-in has started again and thanks need to be extended to the volunteers who are making this possible. We have been able to have a couple of coffee mornings and these have been a huge success, and therefore thanks need to be expressed to all those who organised and were involved.

We really do need to consider how and what we are doing in terms of mission though, and what is possible and realistic to grow our church family, and provide outreach. We need to listen to the needs of our community and discern how we can respond.

Over the last year, I have conducted some private family funerals, and three for Brookfield Parish, not including our dear friend, Penny Ferguson, who was a PCC member at Stainton, and whose funeral I took in Redcar. Last year we had nine baptisms, and this year we have twelve so far, with more enquiries being received weekly. We also had a wedding last year, and we have another one booked for this year.

I was able to bring my leadership safeguarding up to date, and also renewed my DBS recently. I also attended a Training Incumbent's course at Wydale, and two courses for new incumbents. We were able to hold a Plurality Away Day in Swainby in August, and produced some great feedback towards the Diocesan and Deanery plans.

I continue to serve on Diocesan Synod on behalf of the clergy in our Deanery, and I also serve on the Archbishop's Mission and Pastoral Sub-Committee, and the Property Committee. In addition, I continue to enjoy being a Vocations Advisor for the diocese, being alongside people as they discern God's call on their lives. Recently I also had the privilege of sitting on an interview panel for a new diocesan post of Start of Ordained Ministry Adviser. I attend the Eco Group in the Deanery when I am able, and I also am now a trustee for the Stainton Memorial Hall.

I look forward to all that this coming year will hold, and to continuing to be involved in our beautiful church as we look forward to the future together.

Every blessing.

*Revd Claire Todd, Vicar*