

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Parish of Cromer
7.30 pm on Thursday 28 April 2022 at St Martin's**

It will be assumed that all the enclosed paperwork has been read in advance of the meeting. You are strongly encouraged to submit any questions in advance, and at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Agenda 2022

- 1) Welcome & opening prayer**
- 2) Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of 15 April 2021 (page 2) & matters arising**
- 3) Minutes of the APCM 2020 and the APCM 2021 of 27 May 2021 (page 3) & matters arising**
 - 1) Election of Churchwardens for the next year**
 - 2) Electoral Roll report (page 7)**
 - 3) Elections and resolutions of the APCM:**
 - **Election to PCC** (5 people to serve for 3 years)
- 4) Vicar's reflections**
- 5) Annual reports (page 8 onwards)**

An opportunity to respond with questions, comments, encouragements and ideas.

You are strongly encouraged to submit any questions in advance, and at least 24 hours before the meeting.

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- 6) Treasurer's report and Financial Statements**

You are strongly encouraged to submit any questions in advance, and at least 24 hours before the meeting.

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- 7) Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 8) Matters raised by the church membership**

An opportunity to raise questions, concerns, encouragements and ideas regarding the life of Cromer Church, and to request future PCC discussion of particular items.
- 9) Closing prayer**

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS (VESTRY MEETINGS) ON 15 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30, via ZOOM

57 members of the church family were signed in to attend.

Apologies were received from Paddy Bennett and Sarah Morter.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, Revd Will Warren. He explained that the Vestry Meeting for the election of Churchwardens usually took place immediately before the APCM, but we had been unable to hold one last year. We were now required to have meetings for 2020 and 2021. The APCMs would take place on Thursday 27 May.

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Ephesians 4.

The meeting was recorded in case of internet drop-out. The recording would be deleted when the minutes were finalised.

2. 2020 VESTRY MEETING

- a) The minutes of the previous meeting, 28 April 2019, were agreed as a correct record.
- b) Jackie Austin and David Loades had served as Wardens in 2019/2020 with Bishop's Permission.

3. 2021 VESTRY MEETING

- a) Two nominations had been received – Jackie Austin nominated by Kathleen Knowles and seconded by Margaret Bellinger and Ivan Kimble nominated by David Loades and seconded by Jane Loades.
- b) There being only 2 nominations, no election was necessary, and Jackie Austin and Ivan Kimble would serve as Churchwardens for 2021/2022.

4. CLOSING PRAYER

David Loades prayed for the newly elected wardens.

The meeting closed at 19.42 pm.

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – MINUTES FROM THE APCM 2020 AND THE APCM 2021 ON 27 MAY 2021 AT 7.30 IN THE PARISH CHURCH

The meeting was attended by 56 members of the church family.

Apologies were received from Caroline Ashworth, Gordon and Elizabeth Bridger, Tony and Joy Gates, Terry and Margaret Keeler, David Masters, Andrew and Sarah McCandlish, Mary Pallister and Sue Wells.

APCM 2020

2. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, who explained that, because of Covid, we had not held an APCM in 2020. We were, therefore, obliged to hold meetings for 2020 and 2021 this year. Church Representation Rules had allowed a later meeting this year, so we were now able to meet in the church.

He opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Ezra 3.11: “With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.”

We can say the same!

5. MINUTES OF THE APCM OF 28 APRIL 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the APCM of 28 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT: 2020 FIGURES

At the 2019 APCM the Electoral Roll stood at 290.

In the last year we have added 11 new people and taken off a total of 7 (5 deceased and 2 by request).

The current number of those on the Electoral Roll as of 22nd March 2020 stands at 294 (207 in the parish and 87 not in the parish).

7. ELECTION TO DEANERY SYNOD

There were 6 candidates for 5 places. An election took place. The returning officers, Revd Paul Neale and Revd Jess Stubenbord, announced that the following had been duly elected to Deanery Synod: David Anderson, Anne Cottingham, Mary Howard, David Orsborne and Sue Wells.

Paddy Bennett was thanked for standing.

8. RESOLUTIONS OF THE APCM

Archdeacon Ian had encouraged us to reduce the size of our PCC as the Church of England was streamlining governance arrangements. PCC had discussed this and proposed 3 resolutions. The aim was to ensure that there was fresh thinking and new voices on PCC.

Some questions were asked and answered:

- i. Wardens were elected each year but could serve for a maximum period of 6 consecutive years. After this, they must take a one-year break before standing for PCC.
- ii. As well as PCC members, Deanery Synod members must also take a one-year break after serving for 2 consecutive 3-year terms.
- iii. Representation from St Martin's: people from St Martin's were reluctant to stand and this was something that needed consideration and discussion. A role description might be helpful so that any candidate from St Martin's would understand that they weren't expected to do all the practical tasks in church.
- iv. Representation according to congregation had been considered but it was preferable to work together as we had been doing since Covid.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. **That from the 2021 APCM we reduce our overall elected PCC numbers to 15 (10 elected and 5 Deanery reps who also serve on PCC).**
2. **That the maximum term of office that a Warden, an elected member or a representative can serve consecutively on PCC is six years, after which they must take a break of one year.**
3. **That from the 2022 APCM anyone whose maximum term of six years of consecutive office ends as either a warden or as an elected PCC member, needs to take a minimum of a one year gap before being asked/re-elected to a new post.**

9. ANNUAL REPORTS

No questions had been received.

10. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

The Financial Statements 2019 had been adopted by PCC and were available on the website.

APCM 2021

The Vicar explained that, due to the unusual circumstances, we were holding the 2020 and 2021 APCMs on the same night. Therefore, some items of business had already been taken in the 2020 meeting.

1. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

We currently had 290 on the Electoral Roll of Cromer Church.

The changes made in the last year were:

- a) 3 people had died.
- b) 8 people had left by request.
- c) 4 left to attend other churches.
- d) 4 moved away.
- e) 5 people have requested to be added to the Electoral Roll

Of the 290 currently on the Electoral Roll

- a) 188 are female and 102 are male.
- b) 208 live in the parish and 82 do not live in the parish

2. ELECTION TO PCC

There were 5 candidates for 5 places, therefore an election wasn't necessary. David Anderson, Richard Beare, John Hodgkinson, Simon Purslow and Brenda Stibbons were duly elected to PCC.

- a) Dave Walker asked why David Anderson had been elected to both PCC and Deanery Synod. The PCC Secretary explained that this was admissible under Church Representation Rules, as the 2 Synods were separate bodies.
- b) John Graveling asked for an update on the Associate Vicar and was assured that this would be included in the Vicar's Report.

3. VICAR'S REPORT

Looking back

- a) It was good to meet together in person after what had been a strange year and a disruptive season in church life.
- b) On 24 March 202, the Archdeacon had instructed that church buildings should be closed, and we had moved to virtual services, coffee and meetings on Zoom and Dial-a-Sermon.
- c) A number of decisions had been taken to support and care for the church family. People were encouraged to attach themselves to Small Groups, with Cluster Pastors to support the Small Group leaders. The Vicar thanked the Small Group leaders and the pastoral team.

- d) Two online Christianity Explored courses had been delivered.
- e) PCC had responded to financial challenges. Our income was affected by loss of earnings, and we made use of the furlough scheme. The Vicar paid tribute to Staff Team for their patience and forbearance.
- f) We had experienced the sadness of losing staff but gave thanks that they had found new jobs.
- g) Brian Wigg had stepped down as Treasurer. It was noted that there had been no misconduct or malpractice associated with this.
- h) The PCC had risen to the challenge of working electronically. They, and the PCC Secretary were thanked.

Looking forward

- a) Things were slowly opening up again and a Sunday worship pattern of services at 8.45 and 10.30 was currently meeting our needs.
- b) It was hoped we'd be able to sing and have refreshments again at the end of June.
- c) St Martin's would reopen and holiday ministry resume from 04 July.
- d) Ben Rogers would be starting as our Curate at the end of June.
- e) The last 18 months had had enormous impact and some people had changed irrevocably. There was a real need to press on with our church Vision. Work on this had begun but Covid intervened. The Vicar thanked the approximately 100 people who had completed the Vision survey.
- f) We needed to rebuild a Staff Team and a Church Secretary had just been appointed. We were a large church and needed a support structure.
- g) The Diocese had confirmed that we would get an Associate Vicar. We were paying for this in our Parish Share. It was hoped to make the appointment within the next few months.
- h) The Associate Vicar would have oversight of St Martin's and would take over ministry to children and families, an area of church life which had been particularly impacted by Covid. We needed to consider if what we were offering was attractive and a good fit for the needs of families.
- i) Anna Coghlan and Heather Kimble were thanked for taking on Sunday Club.
- j) As a church we should be engaging with the people of Cromer and North Norfolk. People were grieving physically, relationally, mentally and spiritually and, as Christians, we knew that life was better under Jesus.
- k) A Wellbeing course would be offered in the autumn. It was presented by Simon Thomas and looked at Wellbeing from a Biblical, Christian perspective.
- l) The Vicar prayed that the Lord would have his way and be glorified in all we did. He thanked Revd Jennie Hodgkinson and the Sunday ministry team, the Wardens, the PCC Secretary, Brian Wigg, Doug Tuthill and all members of the PCC.

Gifts were presented to David Loades, the outgoing Warden, and the PCC Secretary.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This item was presented by Doug Tuthill, who explained that he had been Treasurer of various churches, including Sheringham, over a period of 20 years and looked forward to serving Cromer.

- a) Doug said that income was down by 27% and encouraged the church family to give by Standing Order. If anyone had any questions about the accounts, they should contact him.
- b) Brian Wigg read a pre-prepared statement of opinion. This had not been notified prior to the meeting and has not subsequently been submitted to the PCC Secretary.

5. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was **RESOLVED** to re-appoint Larking Gowen as Independent Examiner for 2021.

The meeting closed with Prayer at 8.50 pm.

Cromer Church Electoral Roll Report for the 2022 APCM

There were 290 people on the Electoral Roll at the 2021 APCM.

During the year a total of 19 names have been removed from the list.

* 5 people have died and their names were removed

* 12 people requested that their names were removed from the list

During the past year a total of 18 people have been added to the list.

Therefore the total number on the Electoral Roll at the 2022 APCM is 289.

Jackie Austin, Electoral Roll Officer

Vicar's Report

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
(Mt 6v33)

This spring, we have been examining on Sundays the "kingdom culture" that Jesus desires to see among his people. It has been challenging and inspiring in equal measure! Perhaps the most challenging part however is the call of Jesus to make his kingdom the highest priority of all. As we look back over another busy and at times difficult year, there are many things that we might reflect on. Yet in all of them, our prayer has been to seek first the kingdom and advance the cause of Jesus, knowing that when we do so, we cannot fail.

As part of seeking his kingdom, over the last year we have been praying and discerning God's will for us as we enter a new chapter. As we said at our recent vision launch, at the heart of our vision is a desire to see lives and communities transformed by Jesus. We noted that the Bible tells us that God accomplishes his purposes by a three-fold strategy. I want to use that strategy to reflect on our activities over the last year.

Drawing in

Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, I am thrilled to say that we have consistently sought to draw people in with the good news of Jesus. A personal highlight for me was the summer Beach Fest event, our relaunched beach mission. Over a hundred children engaged with the activities and learned of the love of Jesus for them. We look forward to seeing this ministry growing this summer. Since the start of the school year, our youth group has relaunched, and is regularly connecting with several teenagers who previously had little or no contact with church. During the past year, we have run two outreach courses, The Wellbeing Journey and Hope Explored, which although modestly attended, were warmly received. Although COVID forced the alteration of some of our Christmas program, we still welcomed many to hear the gospel proclaimed afresh.

Since the relaxation of restrictions, we have been delighted to welcome several new faces to our services and activities. We continue to pray that God would draw individuals to join us as we proclaim Christ and glorify him.

Building up

Central to growing in maturity is the word of God, and this year we have spent time in our Sunday gatherings studying Israel's return from exile in the book of Ezra, Jesus' parables of the kingdom from Mark's Gospel, Peter's last words to the church in his second letter, and most recently, our Lord's teaching to his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. We also spent three Sundays grappling with some pressing contemporary questions and their relation to the Christian gospel under the title "Matters Arising". I am very grateful to all of our preaching team for the time and care they give to their preparation, and am glad to serve a church with a healthy appetite for biblical preaching.

During the lockdown periods, we have become especially aware of the value of our small groups network for fellowship and support. Several groups have grown with the addition of new members, and we have recently started a new daytime group meeting centrally in the church lounge. I would like to record my thanks to all our small group leaders for their care and nurture, and also to our cluster pastors for their oversight of groups during the pandemic.

The relaxation of restrictions has provided an opportunity to rethink our Sunday children's ministry, and CCKids is the result! It has been a great joy to see children engaging afresh with the Bible and laying solid foundations for a life of discipleship. It is the responsibility of every generation to tell the coming generation of the works of the Lord, and this is especially important in an age when Christian truth is so marginalised. I am very grateful to the CCKids team for their faithfulness and creativity in nurturing our young people so well.

Going out

For many years, Cromer Church has acted as an informal "resourcing" church to support Christian work across the North Norfolk area. As many churches find their feet again after the pandemic, that calling is likely to become especially important. As part of that, from January we took on additional pastoral responsibility for Roughton and Felbrigg churches for an initial threeyear period. We have several existing links with both churches, and we hope that we will be able to put our resources to use to help support our friends where we can as this partnership develops.

A significant part of this is the recruitment of a new Associate Vicar to strengthen the clergy team and be a focal minister for the work at St Martins and the villages. We will plan to interview again in June, and very much pray that God would bring the person of his choosing for this work.

We have a long history of supporting mission work, and I am delighted that following a congregational vote we are now supporting Open Doors and Mission Without Borders.

This report would not be complete without my heartfelt thanks to our churchwardens, Jackie Austin and Ivan Kimble, who are a never-failing support and encouragement. Jennie Hodgkinson and Ben Rogers are wonderful clergy colleagues, and Lesley, Stuart and Doug have been excellent additions to our staff team. As always, Mary Howard has faithfully served as PCC secretary and helped us conduct our business effectively and efficiently. The work of the church progresses in no small part because of the loyal and often unseen service of so many volunteers. Please know my gratitude to you all.

As we look towards another year, let us recommit ourselves, personally and corporately, to seeking afresh first the kingdom of our Lord, and his righteousness.

Revd William Warren

PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC met 8 times in 2021 –2022, mostly at St Martin's, although 2 meetings had to be held on Zoom. All decisions made in a Zoom meeting have to be subsequently ratified by email because Church Representation Rules don't recognise a show of hands on Zoom.

The Church Life and Growth item on each agenda looks in depth at key aspects of church life. In the past year this has included Children's Sunday ministry, the Vision, Mission Partners, use of individual Communion cups, use of church buildings and the Clergy Wellbeing Covenant. The latter, which was adopted by PCC on 24 February, was the subject of an extraordinary PCC meeting the following evening. Since then, the Wardens have met with the Vicar and started working on the easier action points and the subject is being discussed in the Small Groups.

On 11 September we had a PCC Away Day at St Martin's to work on the Vision.

As well as an update on the Electoral Roll, each meeting receives reports and recommendations from the Standing and Finance Committee, the Treasurer, Leadership Teams, the Safeguarding and Health and Safety Leads, the Treasurer and Diocesan and Deanery Synods (when they have met in the preceding month). PCC also receives reports on the General Synod from Caroline Herbert, a Diocesan representative.

The Treasurer's Report is always a main item on the PCC Agenda. The PCC are trustees and, as such, have a duty to be good stewards of our finances. It's very encouraging to see we are now in the black again... As a PCC, we've worked hard to achieve this and the Treasurer is to be commended for going above and beyond the call of duty and for providing accounts that are easy to read.

Standing and Finance is the steering committee of PCC and is prescribed by Church Representation Rules. In order to make the best use of PCC time and to maximize efficiency and good governance the Standing and Finance Committee meets monthly to look at recommendations from the previous meeting and from the Leadership Teams, to ensure that items requiring further work are picked up, and to draw up the PCC agenda.

The Leadership Teams carry out in-depth work in areas where they have expertise and interest, before making recommendations to PCC. All PCC members are expected to serve on a Leadership Team and others, not on PCC, may be co-opted where relevant. Our present structure now comprises:

- Communications
- Youth
- Fabric
- Mission

A resolution taken at last year's APCM has resulted in a more streamlined PCC. Attendance has been excellent throughout the year and members have worked collegially. I am very grateful to members for their commitment and faithfulness.

The PCC has complied in 2021 - 2022 in all respects with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding as required by s5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Mary Howard, PCC Secretary

Fabric Report 2022

This brief report covers various works carried out to the buildings, either owned by Cromer Church, or for which the Church is responsible, during the calendar year of 2021. Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the various restrictions which continued into 2021, only critical work has taken place. This Report does not cover day to day repair works of which there are lots.

Parish Church

The works carried out during the year are: -

- Repairs to the lead back gutter. At the base of the south roof slope to Nave, the lead back gutter, behind the parapet wall, had failed and was leaking. After the erection of external scaffolding in May, the leadwork was replaced.
- Repair works to the warm air heating system were completed. Due to corrosion of sections of the heater structure Nick Claridge has spent a large amount of time during the year working with the engineers to investigate and repair faults, most of which were as a result of corrosion to the weatherproof outer structure which the affected parts have been replaced and Nick has been successful in obtaining a contribution to the costs. In order to access the heater enabling works are required as regards the gas meter enclosure, which was carried out as part of the renewal work in June.
- The gas boiler was replaced. The gas boiler serving the heating to the toilets and lounge had failed and was unable to be repaired. Nick Claridge managed the replacement of the same at the beginning of November.
- Health and safety – the Wardens, along with and as part of the Fabric Leadership Team have, through the year, been working on the H & S policy, with particular reference to risk assessments and method statements related to the safe use of the parish church during the year with covid etc.
- A type B (DAC) faculty has been obtained to install emergency egress signs and lighting. The electrical installation was subject to the required 5 yearly test, and various matters of remedial work were brought to our attention. Nick Claridge is managing the egress signs and lighting project in 2022 along with electrical testing remedial works, with it currently out to tender.
- The replacement of the lighting to the church remains in the planning stage with funding allocated. Investigations are also commencing into carrying out some form of heating disrupter fan installation at the same time as the lighting replacement to utilise the same scaffolding required for both works.

St Martin's

Work continues to maintain the building in a good state of repair by keeping on top of minor defects as they arise. The improvements during the year were as follows:-

- A replacement specialist disabled mixer tap was installed in the disabled toilets due to the existing one leaking and not able to be turned off.
- Three heaters in the worship area of the church failed and were replaced at the beginning of November with portable electrical fan heaters supplied whilst the replacements took place.
- A team of volunteers led by Ben Rogers redecorated the lounge to make it a more welcoming venue for the youth group.
- Dave Walker carried out tirelessly, significant investigation works to try and get WIFI installed into the church. After coming against 'brick walls', Dave is now following up the feasibility of getting 4G wifi installed.

Parish Hall

The Hall commenced opening up halfway through the year after Covid restrictions. No work of significance was carried out.

17, Meadow Close

The house is let, through a letting agent, under a short hold tenancy, such that the house provides an income to the Church whilst it is not required for a member of the Ministry Team. It therefore remains able to be made available for a future church worker, should the need arise. Various minor works of maintenance took place, as required, and arranged by the letting agent.

Generally

The overall condition of the buildings continues to be good. We are conscious of the fact that, whilst the Church is made up of the people that meet inside the buildings, we are merely custodians 'for the time being' of the buildings in our care, and it is our hope to be able to pass them on to the next generation in better condition than when we received them. This is, however, quite a task, taking into account the size and age of the buildings.

The Fabric Leadership Group continues to meet quarterly to discuss the needs of our buildings in detail, and to prepare recommendations to PCC for the repairs needed to our buildings. The fabric leadership group is made up of Nick Claridge, David Anderson, Dave Walker, John Hodgkinson, Ivan Kimble and is expertly chaired by Simon Purslow. Notes are taken by Mary Howard.

Ivan Kimble, Churchwarden

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod aims to promote Mission in the Deanery. Our Deanery, Repps, extends from Mundesley to Sheringham, plus some inland rural parishes including Roughton and Felbrigg. As well as the Licensed Clergy, Cromer's representatives on Synod are David Anderson, Anne Cottingham, Mary Howard, David Orsborne and Sue Wells.

Repps is in the second year of working alongside Holt Deanery with Revd Richard Lawry of Glaven Valley Benefice as Rural Dean and Revd Will Warren as Assistant Rural Dean.

In the last year, we have had 3 Joint Synods:

- 21 May 2021, via Zoom, when Archdeacon Ian spoke to us about the Diocesan Deployment Review.
- 18 November 2021, at Cromer, when we met Bishop Jane.
- 10 March 2022, at Holt, when Bishop Graham joined us for a question-and-answer session.

In addition, we had a Deanery Evensong and tea at Cromer on 1 August 2021. Our next event will be Songs of Praise, 6.30 pm, 10 July, at Weybourne and you are warmly invited to join us.

Mary Howard, Deanery Lay Chair

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk in the Cromer Church family is of the utmost importance. PCC complies with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding, Notices are displayed in each building and the correct practices are followed.

The Church of England have introduced a comprehensive new training programme for everyone who works with Children, Young People and Adults at Risk (previously Vulnerable Adults). This is

completed online as face-to-face meetings weren't possible during Lockdown. This is a challenge for us because a number of people who are on our DBS list do not have access to the Internet.

The Diocese have introduced the Safeguarding Dashboard for use by churches in the Diocese. We have completed Level 1 and are now working through Level 2. Most people in our Church who work with Children, Young People and Adults at Risk have completed the relevant levels of training and once this is complete will we be able to move up to Level 3.

In April 2021 there were 117 on our list of people with DBS clearance. In April 2022 there are 71 names on the list. Several people have more than one role which needs a DBS check.

Alison Orsborne
Sue Brocklehurst

See, I am doing a new thing! (Isaiah 43:10a)

In the last year, some encouraging new ventures have begun and are thriving. Here is a taste of some of them.

Youth Group

It's been a great first year for the Cromer Church Youth Group. Since the group began in September, we've had a total of 15 young people come through our doors. Some have stayed and become regulars, and others have come for our informal social events. We meet in the newly refurbished St Martin's Lounge which is an ideal space for hanging out and has become the central hub for our group.

This Spring term we produced a term card of weekly activities so that kids can know in advance what our topic of discussion will be and which games we'll play week to week. This has been hugely successful and most of our newer faces have been drawn in through an informal movie night or outing. A particular highlight was our bowling trip to JR's in North Walsham where we saw several new faces as well as watching a masterclass in ten-pin bowling from Mike Brown.

I'm conscious that many of the young people we see would not call themselves Christians and are very much exploring the bigger questions around life and faith, so the purpose of the group is to prompt, challenge and accompany the young people on that journey.

Revd Ben Rogers

Blokes Brekkies

2021 saw the start of Cromer Church Blokes Brekkies, to be held a few Saturday mornings a year in the Parish Hall.

At our first meeting on 18th September, General Lord Richard Dannatt, ex head of the British Army, spoke to 60 men on *Leadership in turbulent times*. On 16th October, Richard Beare explained to about 40 how science and faith provide complementary views of the world, using the title *God, black holes and the Big Bang*. Then on February 26th High Sheriff of Norfolk, Michael Gurney, spoke to about 50 on local involvement in the abolition of slavery and prison reform and

social conditions today.

The brekkies aim to provide inspirational speakers who can share how their Christian faith has made a difference to them in walks of life which are inherently of interest.

Past brekkies have been attended by many in the community, including local politicians and council leaders. They provide a valuable way of building church-community links.

Future brekkies will feature Sir Mark Hedley, retired High Court judge on 21st May, and speakers from Sanders Coaches and the BBC.

Recordings are available on the church YouTube channel in the Blokes Brekkies playlist.

Richard Beare

CCKids Report

Common with many churches nationally, Cromer Church has seen a great reduction in families at church since the pandemic began. It has therefore proved all the more important for there to be a fresh approach to children's work at Cromer Church that can gradually build up numbers and grow the team needed.

CCKIDs has provided just such a new approach by encompassing an ALL AGE model of Bible teaching. It doesn't matter whether we have 5 children or 20 children attending- we can adapt as necessary. School holidays tend to bring in a large number of visitors which we can accommodate very easily. So far we have welcomed approximately 45 visiting children as well as having between 10-15 regulars ourselves. We have some very committed teenage helpers who are a huge asset to the team.

We use The Gospel Project Materials which centre on the Christ Connection evident throughout the whole Bible. They are excellent, although lately we have had difficulty sourcing them due to Brexit apparently! We may well need to go to a digital subscription, which is becoming increasingly common anyway.

We always start together, with prayer and worship, alongside a fun all age activity to introduce the Bible passage. After a short video illustrating the Bible passage, we always have a review, often incorporating drama. We try and learn a memory verse over the course of a unit (usually 5-6 sessions). After that, we disband into age appropriate groups. This means, for example, that Lifeguards (7-11s) can dig deeper into the passage, whilst Pebbles (our new group for children needing more than toys but who are not quite ready for a sit down session) can have a more tactile revision of the story, using objects, pictures etc.

We are delighted at how it's going and whilst we long to see more children back in church, we are grateful that those regulars have access to good quality and fun Bible teaching each week. It has been a particular joy to see parents stay too at times. No child need ever feel left without the support of their parent or guardian if needed

Heather Kimble

Cornerstone Coffee and Chat

In June last year we were pleased to reopen Cornerstone Café in the Church after the Covid 19 lockdowns. It proved very successful again and was an important part of our Holiday Ministry, opening regularly until the end of September. Many of the team felt it regrettable that the café should close completely so it was decided to trial a new ministry. "Cornerstone Coffee and Chat" was launched and was staffed by a very strong team of enthusiastic Cornerstone volunteers. The aim was to provide a weekly coffee morning offering a warm welcome, companionship and friendly conversation. This was well received and ran throughout the winter months, filling the gap while the Café was closed. It has offered a simple menu of hot drinks, toasted teacakes and homemade scones and if repeated next winter will also be able to offer espresso coffee in all its forms as well as a luxury hot chocolate.

John Hodgkinson

The Mustard Seed

Thursday mornings 9.00am to 11.30am in St Martins Hall

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed – the smallest seed planted in the garden. The Thursday morning "Mustard Seed" is akin to that. A small seed which is a "drop-in" centre for any who wish to call in for a tea or coffee and biscuit. For the elderly and the young (we have recently had babies only a few weeks old)

Who knows, could it grow into a large plant with big branches that enable many to come under its shade?

Ann Graveling

Women's Ministry

Wellbeing Walks

The first walk at the end of January had to be shortened due to gales, but 19 people enjoyed walking and talking - a good opportunity to meet new people. Afterwards some of us went to the Rocket House café for coffee.

In February we walked two miles in the sunshine finishing at the church where the Cornerstone café was open and in April there was a longer walk to East Runton.

The benefits of walking are many – reducing stress and anxiety and improving mental and physical health. Walking and talking is good and an opportunity for ministry. It is planned to have a walk each month of varying lengths including easier walks to suit everyone.

It is also hoped to organise other women's ministry events, but more help is needed in order to do this.

Brenda Stibbons

The Community

For centuries the bells have rung out over Cromer. We are grateful for this report from the Bellringers who wanted to be included in the reports to the APCM. As you can see, they would welcome people to join them!

Cromer Bells

At present we have at most 7 members of the tower. Two have holiday homes in the area and are here for much of the year. One is a beginner who is making rapid progress. One member is away in the summer months and one at present cannot manage the stairs.

We ring whenever possible for half an hour for the 10.30 service, and have a 90 minute practice on Thursdays from 7.30 pm. On other occasions where bells are needed we try to get a band, but often this requires importing ringers from up to 40 miles away.

There are 8 bells, the heaviest of which is 11 cwt, which is average for church bells. They are in excellent condition, the last major work being in 2014 when two bells were added. The oldest bell is from ca 1499. Bell ropes and bell stays (part of the safety mechanism and made of ash) are the only items needed renewal from time to time.

We are pleased to ring for weddings but need as much notice as possible for getting ringers from other churches, and we are sometimes needed for weddings elsewhere. We usually ring the couple out of church but can also ring them in for an additional fee.

Visitors who can ring are always welcome, particularly on a Sunday. There is a national shortage of ringers, and new recruits are always needed. Non ringers in the congregation are welcome to see what we do, but we do need notice if this happens.

Peals are a sequence of changes (rows) of 5000 or more, taking up to three hours without interval. We have agreed that up to four can be rung in any year. To allay any complaints a peal attempt should be publicised in advance. The louvres are shuttered so the bells will not sound loud.

The main point of contact is the tower captain. Steve Upton – contact details in the porch.

Other contacts: David Leeder 07718 415467 and Derek Jones 07703 721055