

# The Parish of Caister-On-Sea



The Churches of Holy Trinity and Saint Edmund's



## The Churches

### Holy Trinity.

The earliest parts of Holy Trinity date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and as such it has a long history and many stories. But this is neither the time nor place to recount the entire biography of the building. Some of the key features of the church include various memorials and stained glass windows including a large one at the east end in memoriam of the 1901 lifeboat disaster. Various fixtures and fittings were placed in memory of deceased loved ones; the pulpit, altar rails, the Lady Chapel and in memory of those who fought and died in the First World War the organ was purchased and installed.

The building fell into disrepair in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but underwent restoration in the Victorian period and retains much of the characteristics to this day. On the whole the building is still in good repair, the only area of any great concern is the sacristy. The roof of which is not in the best of states, we have an ongoing restoration project to raise money to demolish and build a new slightly larger sacristy. The restoration project currently stands at just over half its £100,000 goal.

A previous successful fundraising project enabled us to add an extension on the north side at the back of the Church. This has provided us a toilet on the premises and the space to take the children out to during the sermon and teach them about the stories in the Bible and other matters of the Christian Faith. Also in the Church we have a tea point which allows us to provide after service tea and coffee once a month and when we have visiting priests or guest speakers. Lastly the Church is fully equipped with a modern sound system, helping to ensure that all are able to hear clearly.

The Church itself is located in a central position in the village.

The churchyard is closed to burials but is infrequently used to inter ashes. The grounds keeping of the churchyard is dealt with by the local authority.

### St Edmund's.

The Church stands near the top of a hill on West Road in West Caister looking over a splendid view of Great Yarmouth and Breydon Water. It is a Victorian Chapel of Ease in the Parish of Caister and was built by the Rev'd George Stewart Rector of Caister from 1829 to 1878.

It was built in 1852 to serve the growing needs of the hamlet of West Caister. The ruins of an original church stand in the garden of the neighbouring house which was once the Rectory.

The Church has flourished ever since and today is well attended for the service each Sunday.

### Church Hall.

The church hall is a moderately sized building used throughout the year for various things. Groups such as the local art group hold their weekly meetings there, and if available can be hired out to other interested parties. Members of the church also hold a weekly coffee morning on Thursdays, as well as holding a number of community lunches throughout the year.

### Rectory.

The Rectory is a modern, well designed parsonage built in 1980. There are four bedrooms, one of which has an en suite. Downstairs there is an ample sized lounge as well as a dining room, kitchen and study.

The house is fully double glazed and heated by gas central heating.

There is a fully enclosed mature garden, of a rather large size. Out front there is parking for some five cars, as well as a garage.



The Rectory is located in a quiet close of four houses off Caister High Street. The location is a short four to five minute walk from the Parish Church. The close also has a secured gate onto the School Lane footpath, giving easy access to Caister Infant and Junior Schools, which are even closer to the Rectory than the Parish Church. The School Lane access also provides a short cut to the beach.

## Finances.

We make no secret that we are not the most affluent of parishes, but we do our very best to raise as much money as we possibly can. We do have trouble in paying our allocated parish share, but we do our absolute best to pay as much as we possibly can.

Our dedicated fundraisers have been working hard over the years to raise money in a variety of ways. But without a fresh influx of volunteers and ideas we are finding it increasingly difficult to meet our parish share.

The breakdown for the past few years is as follows:

Incomings	2013	2014	2015
<b>Collections</b>	£5,042	£4,787	£3,230
<b>Direct Giving</b>	£18,524	£18,721	£19,818
<b>Tax Repayment</b>	£5,328	£5,922	£6,250
<b>Church Fees</b>	£3,702	£4,939	£3,511

<b>Donations</b>	£5,162	£2,924	£2,468
<b>Fundraising</b>	£10,349	£10,302	£7,941
<b>Charity Collections</b>	£708	£834	£880
<b>Sundry Items</b>	£555	£1,402	£1,602
<b>Subtotal</b>	£49,370	£49,831	£45,700
<b>Contra Items</b>	£16,231	£8,619	£10,800
<b>Total</b>	£65,601	£58,450	£56,500

Outgoings	2013	2014	2015
<b>Parish Share</b>	£33,755	£36,100	£31,650
<b>Church Expenses</b>	£8,627	£7,731	£8,313
<b>Rector Expenses</b>	£1,725	£1,612	£1,420
<b>Donations</b>	£967	£802	£1,172
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	£360	£200	£232
<b>Transfer Restoration Fund</b>	-	£240	£240
<b>Sundry</b>	£3,680	£3,348	£2,673
<b>Subtotal</b>	£49,114	£50,033	£45,700
<b>Contra Items</b>	£16,231	£8,619	£10,800
<b>Total</b>	£65,345	£58,652	£56,500

2015 was a little bit of a tough year with the decrease in church fees as well as less fundraising revenue (partly due to not holding the annual Christmas tree Festival that year). This could have knocked us back, but we rose to the occasion and 2016 is looking to be better. With an increase in church fees and other sources, at the end of August we were £1,150 ahead in paying our parish share than at the same time the previous year.

## Location

Caister-On-Sea is a large coastal village on the eastern coast of Norfolk; it lies less than five miles north of Great Yarmouth and 20 miles east of The City of Norwich, with it taking roughly 35 minutes to drive to The Cathedral.

## About the Village

With a population of approximately 9100 Caister-On-Sea is one of the largest villages in the country. The demographic breakdown is 0-4years 4%, 5-15years 10%, 16-64years 57% and 65+years 29%.

The village has had a long standing maritime tradition, from the Roman fort built to defend important waterways through to the thriving fishing trade and now it capitalises on its coastal location by being a holiday destination. Caister is also home to the Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service, which has existed in one form or another since the late 1700s. A tragic disaster taking place during a rescue attempt in heavy seas in 1901 led to the loss of all crew on the lifeboat and the coining of the phrase "Caister men never turn back". True to those words Caister is no sleepy village on the decline, but rather an active village continually placing one foot in front of the other and offering a variety of clubs and activities for all to get involved with.

## Vision and Mission

### Mission Statement.

"The Mission of the Parish of Caister is to worship God and to deliver the Gospel in such a way that we will actively encourage all generations in Caister to turn to Christ; and we will be a resource to them."

### Growing the church.

Currently the congregations trends towards the more elderly, however over the past couple of years there have been some younger additions to the congregation at Holy Trinity. We also have managed to maintain our electoral roll at about the same number in the high 70s only changing minimally each year, despite the loss of a number of long standing members. We average a Sunday attendance of 50 (15 at St Edmund's and 35 at

Holy Trinity) and 10 on Wednesdays at Holy Trinity.

One of our main hopes in the next incumbency is to begin taking steps towards growing the congregations and expanding our ministry to the wider parish. We are not oblivious to the challenges that come with a more diverse congregation, however we need someone who has the vision and capabilities to help us adapt to what the wider parish needs.

### Mission.

We share good links with the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches in the village. Coming together once a year for a unity service, which is held in turn by each of the three churches. Whilst we enjoy good relations with the two other churches we feel that we could further strengthen our interdenominational relations, to be better able to serve the parish in a united front. We also support the local Salvation Army Citadel in Great Yarmouth, helping to raise funds and donations for their ongoing work with those in need.

Out of the four schools in the parish we have built good relations with Caister Junior School and Caister Academy (previously Caister High School), with the previous Rector serving on the Board of Governors of both. Volunteers from the church regularly go into the Junior School and present Open the Book to the children there; this has been very positively received by the children with many asking for copies of children's bibles (which we managed to provide with the help of a successful grant appeal). Whilst we have had some success about bringing the church to the children we unfortunately have had issues with bringing the families into church, with the children wanting to come to various special services but the parents have been unable to facilitate. The Junior School children however do take part in our annual Christingle Service, and

during last year's angel festival the children came and gave a short concert on each of the two days.

Other connections that have been fostered over the years include those with the Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service. As well as the youth uniformed organisations; the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and the Air Training Corp.

Various groups and businesses help to support some of our events such as our Christmas tree festival.



Our main aim and hope is to improve our community ties and rebuild The Church as a community hub and an establishment that ministers to all in whatever way they need.

## Worship

### Services.

There are three weekly services in the parish, 9.00am Sunday – Holy Communion at St Edmund's

10.00am Sunday – Sung Parish Eucharist at Holy Trinity

9.30am Wednesday – Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

All services are taken from The Book of Common Worship Order One.

With other special services are held throughout the year.



2016's Harvest Festival, with the donations going to the Salvation Army food bank.

### Style of worship.

Whilst we do not hold any Bible Study sessions regularly, we have done the Mapping Lent and Mapping Mark courses in the past couple of years. As well as undertaking the Pilgrim Course for Confirmation classes.

At Holy Trinity there is a full array of gothic style chasubles which are used at all Eucharistic services, there are some non-gothic chasubles but they have not seen much use in recent years. St Edmund's also has its own smaller set of chasubles.

Overall the services are mostly formal, but less formal elements are overlaid. For example we allow children to explore the body of the church, which they quite often enjoy instead of being contained to one spot on a pew. So the services are formal, but also relaxed at the same time.

There is some level of lay involvement in the services, with the intercessions being led each Sunday by a member of the congregation, similarly the reading rota is open to all who wish to get involved. We also have a PTO Reader, who on most Sundays will read the gospel at Holy Trinity and preaches from time to time. Our Reader has also lead Morning

Prayer service on a Sunday or Wednesday when the priest is away and there is no cover. There is a serving team of three at Holy Trinity and two at St Edmund's. This is another area where we would like to encourage growth.

On Sundays and various special services through the year (including Wednesdays in Lent) the organist/choir master provides music at Holy Trinity. There is a small choir at Holy Trinity and this is one of the things we are keen to develop further in the future. St Edmund's also has music provided for them by a second organist. Nearly all hymns are taken from the New English Hymnal; but we do also produce song sheets roughly every quarter which contains around 10 hymns from other sources than the NEH.

Since 2014 we have been doing an annual 3 day/2 night pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, with numbers of around 8-10. It has been very well received by those who have attended. Unfortunately the financial cost of the pilgrimage precludes some people from being able to go, but the option of going to the national pilgrimage remains open for which we often go with another church in the deanery.

### **Tradition.**

It is fitting to class the churches as middle to high church, as there are characteristics of the high church tradition but not overwhelmingly so. Holy Trinity on Sundays and other special services utilises incense. Holy Trinity also reserves the Sacrament in the Lady Chapel. So there are some elements of a high church atmosphere, but there is more fluidity and possibility for change than would normally be expected with high church parishes.

As for the traditions of the parish there are some things that we have done for a while and so would count as traditions, but they are always changing with each new incumbent.

We are not fixed in one place or point of time, we accept positive change and understand that to move forward we must adapt.

### *Occasional offices.*

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Baptisms</b>	16	10	10
<b>Confirmations</b>	3	0	2
<b>Weddings</b>	5	1	7
<b>Funerals in Church</b>	29	19	24
<b>Funeral at the Crematorium</b>	18	16	18

All figures correct as of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

## **Church and the Community**

### **Outreach.**

The church has built and maintained relationships with various organisations and clubs, these include; the Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service (CVLS) the youth uniformed organisations, flower club and art group. During the year we interact with them in various ways, the art club holds their meetings in the church hall and holds an exhibition during our summer fete in August, similarly the flower club meet in the church hall, and they also kindly provide their services in helping with the flower arrangements in church year round. The youth organisations have traditionally been present for the service on Remembrance Sunday and some also attend the Harvest and Mothering Sunday services as well. The church and the CVLS have a close relationship with two Rectors being involved with the service and the Church shows support for events held by them. For example 2016's Remembrance Sunday will be a said mass at Holy Trinity presided over by The Bishop of Norwich after which he will conduct a Remembrance Service at the lifeboat shed. Whilst a lot of members of these groups do not regularly attend either church, by virtue of

the relationship they know that the church is there for them whenever they need it.

Holy Trinity also hosts a service annually for the local branches of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. Over the year they visit many churches in the area and for many years we have always welcomed them and held a service. In previous years it was a benediction but this has shifted towards a Eucharist instead.

### **Schools.**

With four schools in the village there have been opportunities to get the church involved with them. Our strongest connection has been with the Junior School. Some of the things that have happened over time is the establishment of regularly bringing Open the Book to the children by dedicated volunteers, as well as bringing them in to church for various services over the course of the year.

We feel that this is an area where we can expand our outreach and better serve the younger population of the village. Whether that is by bringing more of church into the schools, or vice versa and bringing the children into church.

On occasion we display work done by the students in the local schools, such as this project completed for the “We’ll Meet Again” project in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Second World War.



At the start of October the church hosted nearly 90 year 1 students, for the hour that they were there we talked to them about various things such as baptism, confirmation, weddings and items like the vestments. After which they spent some time drawing numerous objects in the church. There are plans to put together a display of their work from the following weeks.

### **Pastoral care.**

Our Reader diligently and frequently takes Home Communion out. We feel that this is a service of immeasurable value to those who receive it as it allows people to still feel connected to the church even when housebound or unable to leave residential care. It's equally a comfort to former congregation members as well as people who have moved into residential care in the village, to help them still feel connected to The Church and not cast by the wayside.

We have no formal prayer group but the intercessions are led by those on the rota, and the rota is open to all who wish to try. As such it allows and encourages the congregation to pray on a variety of issues and exposes others to situations at home or in the world that they may not have been aware of.

### **Church Magazine.**

We produce a bimonthly magazine called The Vanguard; this is distributed to the congregation with further copies being placed in the church hall for any visitors to take as well as being taken on Home Communion visits.

The magazine articles are contributed to by various people allowing for a diverse range of opinions or ideas. Many who contribute towards the magazine have done so for some years, so there may be an opportunity to develop this further and improve upon a solid foundation.

## **Rector Opportunities.**

The Rectors of Caister have often had involvement with various village organisations. The last Rector for example was a governor of Caister Junior School for 20 years and similarly the High School for 12 years, a trustee (and for some years vice-chairman) of the Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service for 18 years and chaplain to the Air Training Corps for 21 years.

None of these positions are ex officio and nor are we expecting the next incumbent to fill all these roles. However whilst it has been customary for the Rector of Caister to be a trustee of the Caister United Charities and a governor of Caister Junior School, all these positions are voluntary so if the new incumbent wished to tread a different path that would be an option open to them, along with the various other opportunities; the Scouts and Guides organisations in the village (set up at the initiative of the Rector in the 1960s) and a number of social and sports clubs. Whatever the interests of the next incumbent there is likely to be something that they can get involved with that would appeal to them.

## **Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for a passionate person, who has the vision to lead us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, forward looking but with a healthy respect for the past. To help bring us into the modern age without bulldozing over where we are and where we have come from.

This is not a Parish that just requires someone to come in and keep the wheels turning; it is a parish that needs work. We have not tried to hide anything nor paper over any cracks; we have been open and honest. Whilst we have work to do to build the churches up and know that it will not be easy and that it will not happen overnight, we are not dismayed or

disheartened. But we do need someone who can take the reins, help us in this endeavour and be the breath of fresh air to carry us forward.

The village and Rectory are well equipped for raising a family, as a number of Rectors have done in the past. So we will happily welcome a family, or whoever is called to be our next incumbent into the Parish.

We have not passed any resolutions regarding female priests and feel that a person's ability and suitability transcends boundaries such as gender. As such we welcome and will consider all applications from anyone who feels like Caister-On-Sea is the place for them.



# Appendix I - Maps



## Appendix II – Finances

### Treasurers Report 2015

As anticipated in last year's financial report and which was backed up by my budget forecast 2015 proved to be a challenging year financially.

£31,650 was paid in Parish Share (being £4,450 less than that which was paid in 2014) leaving a deficit for the year of £20,100. A figure borne out by the following facts. Firstly our 2015 parish share was increased by £6,750, secondly our deficit in 2014 was £8,900 and thirdly our general current account items showed an overall decrease in the region of £4,500.

Dealing with the current account in a little more detail comparing the main items to the previous year's figures collections were down by £1,557, church fees were down by £1,428 while fund raising showed a decrease of £2,361. However there were increases in envelope and standing order giving of £1,097 and in tax reclaimed of £628. Pleasingly there was little change in most items of expenditure with utilities increasing by £248 and insurance by £176.

Holy Trinity's deposit accounts show the purchase of a new Alb paid for from Wendy Hogg's Memorial Fund and the payment of £480 for a necessary electrical check.

The only activity in St. Edmunds deposit accounts was the acquisition of a new cabinet which was paid for from the donation received in 2014 in memory of the late Harry Pascoe.

The Restoration Fund increased by £5,738 in 2015 to £51,741.

The Church Hall had another satisfactory year with income from lettings and fund raising being on a par with 2014. A Lottery Grant of

£2,500 was obtained which covered more than half the cost of new sliding doors and a replacement photocopier was purchased from hall funds which at the year-end stood at £4,737.

Organ fund Balances increased by £225 to £4,596.

As usual at this point in my report I must mention the intangible benefits received by the P.C.C. which cannot be shown in the receipts and payments accounts as they are non-monetary. The benefits to which I refer are the services which people perform without charge, giving up their time and employing individual talents in the service of the church. If I try to list such services, freely given, I would in all probability omit someone from the list so I will simply say on behalf of the P.C.C a big thank you to everyone who helps the church in this way. The importance of these benefits cannot be emphasised enough.

Donations to Charity totalled £1,172 compared to £802 in 2014.

Although Caister-on-Sea P.C.C. having gross annual income of less than £250,000 has no need to comply with the Church Accounting Requirements regarding Risk Management it still recognises that it is responsible for managing risks and the reviewing and assessing of risks by the P.C.C is ongoing and appropriate action is taken when necessary.

In conclusion to this my 38th Annual Report I thought it would be interesting to note some comparisons with the accounts I prepared in 1978. Parish share was only £1,220, Insurance premiums were £202 and heating and lighting costs £561. As far as income was concerned collections and direct giving have increased from £3,825 to £23,048 and reclaimed tax which in 2015 was £6,250 was only £586 in 1978. One item conspicuous by its absence 38

years ago was fundraising which then was only considered necessary for special projects whereas today it is an important part of our income.

Returning to the present as I expressed in my opening paragraph 2015 was a difficult year financially and I would expect 2016 to be no different. However we can only do our best in terms of our time, talent and treasure just as our congregations have always done in the past.

### **Appendix III – Misc Documents**

[Parish of Caister-On-Sea Spotlight](#) – Data about the Parish provided by The Diocese. Including varied information on the demographics and composition of the population of the Parish.