

New Benefice News

Issue 2

13th March 2023

The "Formation Team" have met again this week and wish to share with you the developments in planning for the new benefice:

- A "New Benefice Vision Day" is now planned for Saturday 29th April at Ditchingham Village Hall from 10am to 4pm. This will be an opportunity for anyone who lives and/or worships in our two benefices to come together as we begin to discern God's will and purpose for our new benefice. We will be able to worship together and to socialise with each other as we share in a light lunch, which will be provided. During the day we will think about the wonderful gifts that we bring to the new benefice, to share with one another the things that we really treasure and want to hold on to and to look to the future. Hopefully, by the end of the day, we'll have a clearer idea of our identity as the new benefice and of how we might begin to do all that God has planned for us. Information about the day will be going into village publications, benefice e-mails and church notices in the coming weeks, with details of how to sign up for the day. We hope that a good number of people from across both benefices will take part.
- We were delighted to receive so many ideas for names for the new benefice, many of them very creative. Thank you for all the thought that you put into them. Having looked at them together we have made a short list of those we feel may be appropriate, but we also feel that other ideas may yet arise as we work together at the Vision Day. We have decided, therefore, to bring the short list to that day and to ask all those present to be involved in making the choice.
- We shared the feedback we received from those we consulted about the proposed "transitional worship plan" (thanks to those who supplied this) and decided that this should now be proposed to the Joint Council at Hempnall Group and the collected PCCs at Brooke for adoption. A "Ministry Team" will now be formed by the Vicar, the LLM and the AWAs and this group will flesh out the plan with details of where and when services will be, who will lead and preach and so on.
- Recognising the importance of prayer, we decided to make a prayer card available in the near future so that we can use it together to pray for our new benefice. Look out for these at a service near you soon!

We hope you agree that we have already made a very positive start to what will be a very long process as we seek to maintain all the wonderful things that both benefices have in their histories and look to the future together, discerning God's will for us going forward.

Please continue to hold the new benefice and the "Formation Team" in your prayers and contact us if you have ideas, questions or thoughts that you would like to contribute.