

All Saints Church - Review of the year 2022

Congregation

The average attendance at services was 18 adults, no children. There were two funerals and two weddings at the church. After two years of Christmas services being badly affected by Covid, it was good to see a healthy congregation for the 2022 Carol Service, and also the Family Communion service on Christmas Day. The Remembrance service was taken again by the Reverend Adrian Copping. Unfortunately the Salvation Army band had still not regrouped, but Dr Ridsdill-Smith played the Last Post and Reveille

PCC activities

The full PCC met six times in the year with zoom available on occasions. The average attendance at PCC was 85%

Services

On Palm Sunday afternoon, a new event called Family Craft workshops was started. There was some support for this and some subsequent sessions, but attendance petered out; more thought needs to go into reaching out to families in the community.

We were very lucky to have Peter Tryon play at a number of services in the year; it was good to hear the restored organ being played once more.

Tony Schmitt and some helpers re-sited the sound system so that it could be controlled more easily and ensure that it continued to provide the sound required.

Church supported the Queens platinum jubilee celebrations by holding a service at 11:00 AM preceding the very successful family picnic at the village hall.

Fundraising

A dedicated team of people did an amazing amount of work in fund raising for the church. The 'Celebration in art and flowers' event in July brought many people in from the community and across the benefice. It was both a success as outreach and also financially. Other fund raising activities were the Harvest supper, the Christmas coffee morning at the Old Rectory and a well attended Christmas wreath workshop. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard.

Beautifying

Church cleaning was undertaken thoroughly and well by Astrid Gale, Jane bell and a team of volunteers, while sue Metcalf and her team of flower arrangers ensured there were always beautiful flowers in church particularly around festivals. This made All Saints Church feel welcoming to visit a run church community.

Sue Cousins, with Tony Smith's assistance, continued to work very hard to get advertising for the church magazine while Sharon Schofield did an excellent job as editor and a group of volunteers delivered it monthly it continues to be a useful source of church income.

Fabric and churchyard

a) Quinquennial

Work identified in the 2017 Quinquennial inspection was completed in November 2020. The next quinquennial inspection was undertaken in November 2022 by architect Nick Jacobs. This resulted in an estimate of over 50,000 pounds worth of work to be done on the fabric of the church, particularly masonry repairs.

b) Churchyard

Top garden services have mowed the churchyard twice a month, maintaining the grass well. Thanks to Peter Holborn, with David Ford, Dave Woodward and a willing team of helpers, regular working parties were arranged in the churchyard, while some areas were planted with bulbs and wild flowers and bird boxes and orchestral box were installed

c) Church bells

Following the decommissioning of the existing bells due to safety reasons the process of restoring the bells commenced by costing the project and holding a village meeting to see whether there was community support. This

was followed by the application for a faculty. The community in general were very supportive of the proposal and there were some offers to sponsor bells. However the faculty process has become challenging with the Church Buildings Council wanting to retain some of the oldest bells. his process continues in 2023. Watch this space

Safeguarding

Under Astrid Gale, the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults has remained a high priority and become embedded in everything done by the parish. All relevant people have been supported in their training requirements and all necessary policies have been adopted.

And for 2023

We hope to develop the current pattern of services while finding new ways to reach out to families, to support a bell restoration project if this remains feasible, to continue the excellent work of fund raising, completion of the organ restoration and closer working links with St. Mary's Woolpit.