

Annual Report 2019 for St Nicholas Church
Wrentham
Prepared for Parish Council Meeting Annual General Meeting
Monday, 15th April 2020

For the fourth consecutive year, The Wrentham Benefice, consisting of the Parish Churches of St. Andrew's Covehithe, St. Mary's Henstead, All Saints Frostenden and St. Nicholas Wrentham, was still in an interregnum. There was to be some very good news later in 2019, that following an interview in late Autumn, The Rev'd John Loftus of Henstead had been appointed as 'House for Duty' Priest for the Benefice. John's installation would be in February 2020 at St. Nicholas Wrentham.

The four Parishes maintained weekly services throughout the 2019 thanks to several 'retired' clergy; The Rev'd Barrie Slatter, the Rev'd Eric Doré, The Rev'd. John Loftus, as well as a number of services being lay-led. We, at St. Nicholas, were most grateful to the Rural Dean and Team Rector, The Rev'd. Canon Simon Pitcher, for his continued support, guidance, advice and ministry to us for another year.

St Nicholas held the required four Parochial Church Council meetings during the year, as well as the Annual Parochial Council meeting. Lindsay Hangar, as Treasurer, presented the 2019 accounts which had been audited by Rosie Carter. Dr. Nigel Drane was thanked for all his hard work, being the Secretary and Fabric Officer. Alison Evans continues as Safe Guarding Officer and Organist. All these positions are onerous, but, vital for the 'maintenance' of our 'church'. These three were re-elected on to the PCC, with an Electoral Roll of 15 as of 18th April 2019.

The PCC was very pleased to be able to pay in full the 2019 Quota, an annual amount paid to the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. We are indebted to Lindsay Hangar who kept a close eye on the finances throughout the year.

There were several necessary repairs and some essential maintenance work carried out during 2019. Nigel Drane saw that a new heating system was in place by November in time for the Wrentham Band, who led and played for the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, 10th. November. St. Andrew's Church Covehithe congregation also attended. In the afternoon, the Band gave a concert in church which was attended by a large appreciative audience. Refreshments, including a celebratory fizz and cake, were served, it being the Bands 100th Anniversary. It proved a most enjoyable event. Thanks go to Rosie Carter who master-minded the whole day's programme.

As well as the weekly Sunday services in church, The Rev'd. Barrie Slatter organised 'Brunch and Worship' time on the last Sunday morning in each

month at Wrentham Village Hall. These times attracted a different group of worshippers.

Many thanks go to all who contributed and helped with running these services.

There are going to have to be some major repairs needing immediate attention in early 2020. The Church architect, Brian Haward, pointed out that there are severe problems with some mullions in three of the north aisle windows. This area was cordoned off for safety reasons. As ever, another expensive job.

During the year there had been one wedding in July and two funerals.

It was decided to give the major fund-raising weekend, 'A Celebration in Creativity', a break last year. Much hard work goes into 'staging' these events. A fresh idea is to be arranged.

As mentioned previously, The Wrentham Band continues to support St. Nicholas Parish Church. They provided the music for the Service of Nine lessons and Carols on the Sunday evening before Christmas. With some heating now available this year, the Carol Service was held in church. Again, Members of St. Andrew's Church Covehithe attended, four of whom read lessons, as did the Deputy Chair of Wrentham Parish Council, Mrs. Lucinda Gooch.

Lindsay Hangar led the popular Christingle Service on Christmas Eve afternoon. All those attending enjoyed making their Christingles, as well as being able to eat the fruit. The collection from this service was, as always, donated to 'The Children's Society'.

There will be much to celebrate at the start of 2020 when the new priest, The Rev'd. John Loftus will be installed at St. Nicholas Wrentham in early February. We look forward to welcoming John and his wife, Susan. They will continue to live in their home in Henstead, and, will be seen around the four parishes. We wish John well in his new ministry.

Alison Evans
Member of Wrentham PCC.
1.vi.2020.