

Annual Report 2022 for St Nicholas Church Wrentham

Prepared for Parish Council Meeting Annual General Meeting

Monday, 17th April 2023

Throughout the year we managed to maintain a weekly pattern of 11.00am Sunday worship at St Nicholas Church. Our incumbent, The Rev'd John Loftus retired at the end of October. Our thanks were expressed to him for his ministry and for organising several special services during the year. These included a Platinum Jubilee Celebration in June, four 5th Sunday services for the four churches in the Wrentham Benefice, a Lammas Tide and Harvest Festival.

Along with the nation, we were saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth 11 in September and a special service of prayer and reflection was held in her honour.

We continue to be most grateful to The Rev'd Barrie Slatter, a retired priest living locally, who offered to help out during this interregnum. When he is not available, we are appreciative for the ministry of the Rev'd Canon Paul Nelson, a local retired priest.

The required number of PCC meetings throughout the year were met. Lindsay Hanger was re-appointed Churchwarden & Treasurer at the APCM. Dr Nigel Drane was thanked for all his hard work as Fabric Officer and Secretary, a position he was later to 'step back from' because of his many duties within the community. Alison Evans was re-elected as Safeguarding Officer and Organist. There were 9 on the Electoral Roll.

The Quota for 2022, an annual amount paid to St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese was paid in full. Finances were not in a healthy situation.

During 2022 there was 1 Baptism, (Archie Middleditch, the first grandson of Roger & Gill Middleditch), 1 Marriage & 7 Funerals. Weekly attendance remains quite low, but special services, such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, the Carol Service and Christingle, attract a good congregation.

The Wrentham Band continued to support St Nicholas Parish Church providing the music for Remembrance Day Service and the Service of Nine lessons and Carols at Christmas.

The Congregation were delighted to have the Rev'd Canon Rich Henderson officiate at the service on Christmas morning. We very much hope it will be possible for him to lead worship for us on Christmas Day 2023.

Generally, light refreshments are available at all services and the Ukrainian National Anthem is played on most Sundays.

There have been advertisements nationally for a 'House for Duty' Priest for the Wrentham Benefice for 2023. We look forward to a new Priest being appointed in the near future. As yet, no applicants.

Alison Evans
Member of Wrentham PCC
25.iii.2023