

## **Annual Report for St. Nicholas, Wrentham for the year 2023**

In May 2023 St. Nicholas, Wrentham had a PCC of 4 members, Lindsay Hanger, Church Warden and Treasurer, Nigel Drane, Fabric Officer, Alison Evans, Safeguarding Officer and Mark Townsend-Easton, member.

All members of the PCC met the statutory Safeguarding requirements by completing Diocesan led training which is accredited. Lindsay Hanger and Alison Evans also completed Leadership Safeguarding Training, these certifications last for 2 years so will need to be updated during 2024/25 (Mark Townsend-Easton 2025/26).

We invite more people to belong to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) the commitment isn't huge, just 3 or 4 meetings every year, but it would be good to share the decision making with more members of the village of Wrentham so that we can make sure that all views are represented.

Throughout the year we have managed to keep the Sunday Service pattern of 11am every Sunday following Common Worship. Music at every Sunday Service had been provided by Alison Evans, to whom our thanks are offered.

We remain in interregnum following the retirement of John Loftus (2022) and are grateful to Barrie Slatter for organising the rota of services for the Wrentham Benefice, including other retired clergy members when he is not available. Attendance at our weekly Sunday Service remains quite low but regular and we would like welcome new members to attend either regularly or on a casual basis, thanks to Alison Evans there are always refreshments after our Sunday Service, a welcome hot drink in the winter months and often seasonal goodies to share.

There have been no weddings in 2023 and only 1 funeral; we think that the reason for this is the opening of the new Crematorium near Beccles, which is used by many villagers.

Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Harvest have been celebrated in our traditional way and we are very grateful to the Wrentham Band for providing accompaniment for our Remembrance celebrations and Christmas Carol concert. We also extend our thanks to Wrentham Band for organising concerts in the Village Hall from which half of the revenue is donated to the church.

There has been much work going on over the past year to refine and adapt the Parish Profile with a view to recruiting a priest for the benefice; in spite of several attempts at advertising there have been no applicants, which is reflective of the usual picture in the Church of England currently. It is likely that we will not be able to attract a new priest and will have to refine our thinking and take a new approach, calling on retired clergy and lay members to host Sunday services; some work is going on to look at the practicality of providing services in every church every Sunday.

We continue to support the people of Ukraine with regular renditions of the Ukrainian National Anthem on Sundays.

Members of the PCC will continue to do the best we can to keep St. Nicholas, Wrentham open for all.

Lindsay Hanger  
Church Warden  
Wrentham St. Nicholas