

ST PETER'S CHURCH - HENLEY SUFFOLK

Report to Parish Council 2016

During 2015 St. Peter's Church saw a very slight decline in attendance numbers from 2014, mainly due to the increasing age of the congregation. We held 85 services during the year with an average weekly attendance of 45. Christmas and Easter services were well attended and school services filled the church. There were 2 weddings, 2 baptisms and 2 funerals, there were no new burials in the churchyard.

The new Sunday school format of a few larger meetings a year is working well with good attendances at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance day.

During July our Priest in Charge Rev. Peter Thorn retired and we are now in interregnum until a new priest is appointed, we hope it will not be too long now.

We have only carried out minor repair work during the year, this consisted of mainly small masonry repairs to minor cracks, a window mullion and some render repairs to the parapet of the tower. A quinquennial inspection was due in November but was not done until earlier this year because our new architect had to wait for approval from the diocese. We are still awaiting her report.

Fundraising is vitally important we were supported by an evening at Walnut Tree Farm in July and have held several events of our own. These included a Puzzle evening, a Beetle Drive and a singalong evening in church based on the music from "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" these events proved very popular and were very well supported. The highlight of the year was probably the firework evening held in November, this very successful night was very well supported by many from the village. Members of the Church joined "Chorus Vestra" with carol singing around parts of the village. The 100 Club continues through difficult times to raise funds and our Vestry Café is still going strong, why not pop in on the third Saturday of the month for coffee and cake or even a light lunch. During the year we have supported charities such as The Alzheimer's Society, Families in Need and Fairtrade.

Our churchyard team have eventually decided to call it a day as they are all getting older, we must offer them our most sincere thanks for all they have done to keep the churchyard so well maintained through the years. We are lucky that we have a fresh volunteer to cut the grass and this is going very well, thank you.

We will be holding a Flower Festival on 25th and 26th of June, we have a lot planned and would welcome your support.

I must thank everyone that has supported us at our fundraising events and those that have done so much for us behind the scenes. Thanks to the parish council for their small grant to us to help with churchyard upkeep, it is much appreciated. Thanks to all who have helped with the running of the Church especially during the interregnum, particularly Cathy who has had to bear most of the extra work.

Richard Self