

ST PETER'S CHURCH - HENLEY SUFFOLK

Report to Parish Council 2017

The Church attendances for 2016 were similar to 2015, we held 82 services, attracting a total congregation of 2487 giving an average of 30, this accounts for larger services such as weddings and funerals, and Christmas and Easter, but also smaller services such as the monthly prayer group attended by around 8 people.

There were 1 wedding, 1 baptism, 3 funerals including 2 burials, and 3 interments of ashes. Occasional services and the Children's workshop are well attended.

After 15 months of interregnum in October we were at last able to welcome our new Priest in Charge of the 3 parishes of Claydon and Barham, Gt. Blakenham and Henley. The Revd Carl Melville comes with much needed enthusiasm and ideas to improve all of the parishes and is well liked by the congregation. We have slightly altered the times of our services, so that there should be one at 10 o'clock each Sunday with an Evensong at 6.30pm on the 4th Sunday of each month. We now have a monthly pattern of very different services and if anyone is thinking of joining us there is something for everybody, just look at the church noticeboard for details.

Very little maintenance work has been necessary to the building and the churchyard has been kept tidy by having working mornings and regular volunteer cutting of the grass. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their grant towards the cost of maintaining the paths and general churchyard costs.

Fund raising is as vital as ever, we held a patronal flower festival in June with a barbecue and jumble sale. A harvest barbecue and games afternoon were held in September. Vestry Café including light lunches are still going strong and raise money for the fabric of the church and are an important social time. Please come and join us on the third Saturday of most months. We continue with our Fairtrade stall once a month and collect food items for Families in Need, if anyone would like to contribute to the work of this charity there is a box in the church porch for any gifts of food etc.

I would like to thank all of those people that have supported us at our events throughout 2016 and also those people that have made it all work by putting in so much behind the scenes. Also, a special thank you to Cathy for the work she has put in to help us through the interregnum.

On the 2nd of July, we shall be holding a special charity event, "A Slice of Summer" including a cold buffet lunch, varied musical performers and an auction of promises. Half the profits from this day will be given to The Sick Children's Trust. It will be a good day, please support us, tickets are available from Margaret Gerrard and Sarah Hazelwood. Check parish emails and local notices.

Many Thanks