

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEEK ST MARY

Review of the Year:

There have been five meetings of the PCC in the last year with an average of 80% attendance.

It has been a really busy year in the life of St Mary's Church, with many varied events taking place.

We held a successful Pop-Up Restaurant in February hosting a Valentines Meal. March saw us host Bishop Hugh Nelson who confirmed 8 candidates for the Stratton Deanery.

May was the Annual Church Open Day.

June, we held a Murder Mystery Evening in the church with a 3-course meal being served.

July Wendy and Nick Couch hosted a Cream Tea afternoon at their house.

We also were delighted that the North Door in the kitchen at Church was taken away to be restored and fitted with draught proofing. This was paid for by a £2k Quick Wins Grant

At the same time, we have received an anonymous gift sufficient to pay for the installation of glass doors on the outer opening of the main porch entrance.

This will improve the draught proofing to that entrance to retain heat inside the church and make the porch a comfortable and attractive place to sit throughout the year (this job will be completed in Spring 26).

At the same time as this Faculty was approved, we also had a faculty approved for the complete renovation of the Grade 1 Listed Tower which is on the "At Risk Register". The work now starts to finance this project.

August saw 100+ people enjoy the Annual Safari Supper.

September many events were enjoyed leading up to the Revel.

October, a large number of people attended a concert by The Countrymen.

We also in August hosted the newly installed Bishop David who led a Communion Service for the Bude Coast & Country, followed by a lunch.

November yet another successful Christmas Market with over 20 stalls.

December Micheline and Stephen Smith hosted the Mulled wine Evening.

As well as the many events listed above the Nativity Figures went off on "The Journey" around the Village, 3 sets of figures resting in 90 houses and ending up in Church on Christmas Eve for the live Nativity which is held every year.

Bellringers have consistently practised every Wednesday evening and rung the bells at every service.

On VE Day they rung a peal of 80 changes.

Lesley Booker retired after many years as Tower Captain and Wendy Couch was elected as the new Captain.

Adventure Church: A most successful year, held weekly in term time on a Tuesday after school. A simple Bible story is followed each week by an activity in church or outside in the better weather. Each week the children sit together to share in fellowship.

Coffeepots Baby & Toddler Group: This group has been running for several years under the banner and Insurance of the church in the Parish Hall on a Tuesday morning, weekly in term time. It is now run by Wendy Couch.

Lego Cafe: A monthly event which is free for the children to spend time making Lego vehicles, buildings and some items of strange shapes. This coincides with breakfast available to purchase and has brought people into the church on a regular basis who wouldn't normally attend on a Sunday.

Monthly Lunches: A regular monthly event of a two course lunch averaging 24 people each time and giving some social time to enjoy, especially for those who live alone.

Happy Memories: Held twice a month on a Monday afternoon, a mixed group some with memory loss and a few that just want to be with others and enjoy tea and cake which is preceded by an activity or visiting entertainment.

CAMEO: "Come and Meet Each Other" This is held monthly in a house for anyone to drop in and enjoy tea, cake and a chat.

Meet & Eat: This was started many years ago at the Rectory and is now held in the Parish Hall (under the umbrella of the church) Soup and Sweet lunch, This is all done by volunteers and is open for anyone to attend.