

ST MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

2024

It has been another very busy year in the Parish Church. We have continued to have Zoom services on Sunday and Wednesday mornings this has allowed the vulnerable or housebound to be part of the services remotely.

Regular bellringing at services and practice night on a Wednesday from our dedicated team.

We must thank the regular list of cleaners and flower arrangers.

We get many compliments on the appearance of the Churchyard, thanks go to Dick Sowerby and Trevor Hamlyn for their hard work. We have had the hedges tidied this year by Trevor which has improved the whole look of the Churchyard. There is some work to be done on small ash trees that have "ash die back"

The library which is looked after by Sue & Rob Isherwood attracts many regular readers and comments are made on the tidiness and regular replacing of the books with sometimes very new books that have been left for our library. This is free to all and does not require the books to be returned. We now have an extra addition with jig saws available.....during the winter we have had a jig saw on a table for anyone to sit quietly and add a few pieces.

As well as the regular Adventure Church we have now got monthly Lego Café, with breakfast available and a monthly Lunch Club, both of these events have proved successful, all these events would not be possible without our regular helpers, we are eternally grateful for their commitment.

We also continue with Meet & Eat and CAMEO monthly, which have been running for many years.

We have strived to keep the church alive with many varied events including.....

Church spring Clean

Pancake celebration

Kings Coronation Service

Coronation Cream Teas

Pimms & Nibbles

Safari Supper

Revel Celebrations

Remembrance Day Service

Christmas Market

Mulled wine

Poetry & Puds

Annual Crib Service

In July we as a Benefice held a celebration Service in Marhamchurch for Father David Barnes, to celebrate his retirement and his moving to St Giles.

It was then with great sadness that we all had to come to terms with his sudden death in the new year while on holiday abroad with his family, may he rest in peace.

Father David allowed us to start the preparation for a new Rector before he left. We were allocated a Transition Officer and 2 members from each church met several times to write job description, parish and benefice profile and the advert.

I am pleased to say that the Reverend David Saunders has accepted the position and will be licensed and moving into the Rectory early June.

We are doing well completing Safeguarding requirements including DBS and Training for all those for whom it is mandatory.

Without the many who give of their time and effort we would not have such a welcoming, clean and comfortable church to use not only for regular worship but for the many varied events.

Linda Cobbledick PCC Secretary