

## Review of the Year 2022 for St Peter's Levington

This review of the year records the activities of the Parochial church Council of St Peter's Levington for 2022.

in 2022 those on the electoral roll numbered 34. There were two weddings in the church one of which was the marriage of our long serving organist Peter Bumstead to Kristie Walraven. There was one baptism, two funeral services, one service of thanksgiving and one interment of ashes. The Churchwarden is always present at these occasional offices. We were particularly sad to note the deaths of Diana Hawtin, Pat Owen and Mike Cathrall, all members of our worshipping congregation.

In 2022 the PCC comprised seven people: Janet Stalker, Vice Chair and Deanery Rep., Margaret Angus, Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer, Ali Bailey, Deanery Rep, Elizabeth Courtauld, Ian Angus, Chairman of the Friends of St Peter's and Caroline Young. Peter Allan, Treasurer, was elected as an ex officio member of the PCC.

The PCC held 5 Working Party meetings in 2022: 13<sup>th</sup> January, March 10<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup> when all church policies were reviewed and October 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition, an extraordinary general meeting was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the PCC met in the church to discuss the possibilities and principles behind a proposal for some gentle re-ordering in the church. Details were documented in the minutes. The ideas put forward included an aim to: level up the floor between the west porch and the nave (Health and Safety), to remove some pews at the back of the church to create space around the font to aid circulation and maybe facilitate a small meeting space, to build a cupboard kitchen on the back wall of the nave opposite the font, to improve the amplification of sound within the church and to consider erecting an outside lavatory on the site of the old and dilapidated church shed.

The PCC continued to work alongside their 'Aims and Purposes' document. Health and Safety and Safeguarding were agenda items at all Working Party meetings. Any PCC members who have not yet done their Safeguarding training have been strongly urged to do it.

We retained the pattern of two services a month, one Morning Prayer and one service of Holy Communion; with a Benefice service on any 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. On the Sundays with no service in Levington, parishioners, if they choose to do so, can easily go to a service in a neighbouring parish.

St Peter's paid its parish share in full for January 2022. Direct debits and standing orders have remained similar to last year. There were no recommendations from the examiner this year vis a vis the church accounts.

The average age of our congregation remains high and the only young attending are the grandchildren of those who worship in the congregation. We encouraged children in the village to participate in an Advent Craft activity led by Our Vice-Chair, Janet Stalker. Those who came made a variety of angels from templates and then decorated the Christmas tree in the church, which looked stunning. Advent calendars were given to all those in the parish aged between 2-15. Each new baby in the village receives a St Peter's china mug. As a church we welcome newcomers to the village and visitors.

At Christmas we continue to have our illuminated star on the church tower and this year an angel joined the star. We sponsored a Festive Feast for the village before Christmas and distributed the C. of E. 'Follow the Star' booklets to all houses in the village. The Salvation Army played for our

carols once again and the village raised £5000 for the Felixstowe branch. We continue to support the SHCT's Ride and Stride event. In 2022 we asked our two Ukranian residents to cycle for us and they were well sponsored and, together with John and Helen Ross raised £850. Our Harvest Festival concentrated on collecting donated foodstuffs and produce and we supported both FIND and Basic Life Charity food banks. We also collected a total of £375 for other charities during the year, including British Legion £250 and DEC Ukraine £125.

The idea of the St Ethelbert's Pilgrimage, comprising eighteen stages, was conceived in our parish and designed to involve the congregations of all the churches in the benefice. Originally planned for 2020 to celebrate the millennium of the St Edmundsbury Cathedral, it was postponed because of Covid. The walks took place between March and September and involved 'pilgrims' of all ages walking between all the churches in the benefice, on into Ipswich, along the river Gipping and across the county to the cathedral for a service of Evensong on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>. This coincided with the Proclamation of Accession for King Charles III from the balcony of the Athenaeum, which made it a very special day.

In late November our Rector let us know that he intended to retire at the end of May 2023. We are now a Benefice in Vacancy and will be heavily reliant on members of our Ministry Team until the Rector's successor is appointed. The process of seeking a new Rector has already begun. The first set of advertisements brought no applications. A second phase of advertisements will be published in June.

We are greatly indebted to Peter Bumstead, who plays the organ for our services and provides us with such uplifting music. Warm thanks are offered to those who work so hard in the church to make it an attractive place for worship and fellowship. All make an invaluable contribution to our ability to 'worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'.

During Lent 2023 we held a Hunger Lunch which raised over £1200 for the DEC Turkish /Syrian Earthquake Appeal. In early May, to coincide with the King's coronation, we have just staged a most successful Flower Festival and Art Exhibition over three days in the church. It was very well supported indeed and provided much interest and pleasure for the many visitors who streamed in over the BH week-end.

Margaret Angus  
Churchwarden