



Pulham Market Church

Church report 2022/23

A good year with real challenges

It has been a challenging year getting back to normality following the pandemic. The church community was pleased to be worshipping together again after the break, and resuming our outreach projects. Covid is still prevalent and three of our regular groups are still meeting 'on line', also Celebration on Sunday evenings. It is good to report that the number of people attending regular worship has maintained since the pandemic.

All churches undergo quinquennial inspections to identify maintenance issues. As a result of the last inspection, we have spent £45k this year re-plastering the interior south wall, making repairs to the roof, repointing flint work on the exterior, and removing and repairing the west window.

In the late Summer of 2022, our heating system was condemned as unsafe. It was installed 25 years ago, and although regularly maintained has obviously deteriorated over time, resulting in us enduring this winter with temporary arrangements. It has been cold!! In finding a solution we are trying to embrace the challenge of firstly, moving away from using fossil fuels, and secondly finding a system that will heat the people rather than the building. Although we have applied for, and been successful in obtaining grant funding, it has put a great strain on our resources.

We continue to work closely with the school. Pupils and staff regularly come to the church. In addition a group of church members visit the school to assist the staff in promoting an understanding of the Christian faith, through dramatised bible stories involving the pupils.

Our mission is 'Sharing the love of God by placing the church at the centre of the village'. Making the church available for public worship; private prayer, or more formal occasions like weddings, funerals, and national celebrations.

Attracting young families is a constant challenge. In collaboration with the Methodist Chapel, we have recently launched "Messy church". Not a traditional church service, but more a time together enjoying a meal; with stories, craft work, and tailored worship. Its introduction has been highly successful with a large number of young families attending on a monthly basis.

We are pleased to be able to continue to provide community lunches every two weeks, and Coffee stop in the Brewhouse every week for parents who have dropped off their older children at school.

During the Autumn our Rector, the Rev Sarah Walsh, moved to a neighbouring benefice, so we are currently in interregnum. Although we are advertising the position, it is unlikely that we shall be able to recruit immediately. This places an additional burden on our local Ministry Team. We are indebted to the Ministry team for their dedication in supporting the church in Pulham Market.

We are grateful for excellent relationship and the continued support of the Parish Council in maintaining the churchyard. During this year we have reduced the size of many of the yew trees making the churchyard a safer and easier space to maintain.

Alan Thorp and Tony Gray
Church Wardens

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