

St Andrew's Church North Pickenham PCC Report for 2023

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

General:

1. The Church continues to be open for worship twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday mornings at 11.15 am. The average congregation attending is between 14 and 20. It was agreed that Carol and Gwyn Richards would open the and provide refreshments on the second Sunday. Trevor and Carolyn Vincent would open up and provide refreshments on the fourth Sunday, and Trevor would play the hymns on the church organ on both Sundays. The fourth Sunday was also a service of Holy Communion.
2. Carol Richards and Trevor Vincent agreed to continue as Churchwardens for another year.

Finance:

1. The Ceiling Repair fund had been completed during March and the church was fully re-opened by Easter. Grateful thanks were expressed to all those who had helped raise the money and particularly to the 'Friends of St Andrew's Group' who had worked tirelessly organising special events. The churchwardens and congregation very much appreciated all the hard work involved.
2. The Weekly Coffee Morning and the donation from the monthly WI meeting continues to bring in top-up funding to help with the general running of the church building.
3. Gwyn and Carol Richards had produced a Parish Giving Scheme leaflet encouraging regular giving to support the church. This way of giving is open to all parishioners irrespective of whether they attend church regularly or not. Please let our Treasurer Gwyn Richards know if you want to take part and he will give you the details.
4. Jubilee Tree. A tree had been planted at the south boundary of the churchyard to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The cost had been met by the Pickenhams WI.
5. The Jubilee Bench had been bought and put into place.
6. Future Fund Raising. Stephen Thorp explained that to help with church fundraising anyone can register online with Easy Fund Raising and nominate North Pickenham Church as their chosen charity.
7. The Prish Council continues to support the churchyard grass cutting costs.

Safeguarding:

1. Carol Richards had completed the Safeguarding Plan, and a copy was available at the back of the church.

Pastoral:

1. Monday Coffee Morning. This continued to be well supported and provided a warm safe space every week at 10.30 am to anyone who wanted to come. It continues to be run mainly by the ladies of the Pickenhams WI and partners. Volunteers are always welcome.
2. Lunch and Table Games. During the winter months a Lunch Club and Table Games afternoon has been continued to be supported.
3. Remembrance Day Service. This had been well supported and everyone spoke highly of Jackie Cook who organised and ran it. Over 20 parishioners stayed for refreshments afterwards provided by Lisa Eagle.

Practical Matters:

1. Gutting blockage – had been cleared by the Window Cleaner and the downpipe by Trevor Vincent and Gwyn Richards.
2. The PA System – a PA specialist from Diocesan House had balanced the system successfully and it was now in full working order.
3. Bats in the church. Felicity Dennis reported that the problem had eased by there were still traces of excrement near the Font.

Special Thanksgiving:

1. To Mark Saxon for continuing to wind the church clock and keeping it in good order.
2. To Chris and Melanie Cousins who organised and ran the bi-monthly Quiz Nights during the year and continue to do so.
3. To Felicity Dennis and her team of Flower Arrangers and Cleaners who help keep the church looking beautiful. Volunteers always welcome.
4. To the members of the Refreshment Team who provide -free of charge – the Coffee Morning refreshments each week.
5. To the PCC members who organise and support the work and witness of the church.
6. To the churchwardens who look after the pastoral and practical side of church life.
7. To our Rector, the Revd Stephen Thorp, for his care and commitment to the Parish.
8. To members of the Ministry Team who support Stephen in leading and preaching at the services in the Benefice.

Celebration

1. The PCC is grateful for the support and care given to our lovely church building and the community it represents.
2. The PCC invites all who live in North Pickenham and the surrounding area to come and experience the warmth and friendship on offer within the building, not just on Sunday (11.15am), but on Monday (10.30 am) Tuesday (2.00 pm WI second of the month) and Thursday (1.00 pm Lunch Club and 2.00 pm Table Games).

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Carolyn Vincent, PCC Secretary

February 2024