

**The
Diocese
of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**



**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
of
St. Andrew's Church
Wickham Skeith
Suffolk**

**For the year ended 31 December 2012
Prepared under the Receipts and Payments
Accounting Basis**



St. Andrew's Church, Wickham Skeith.

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending December 2012

Background

St Andrew's Church is situated in Church Lane, Wickham Skeith. Along with five other parishes it forms a Benefice within the Deanery of Stowmarket which is part of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich within the Church of England.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the P.C C:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent	Reverend Elizabeth Varley
Wardens	Mrs. Liz Davidson
	Mrs Jean Willoughby

Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs. Mary Paine
	Mrs Liz Davidson

Elected Members:

Secretary:	Mrs. Mary Paine
Treasurer:	Mr. Phillip Cutting
Mrs. Sheila Wright	Mr. Ronald Wright
Mrs. Doris Mullenger	Mr Peter Paine
Mrs. Celia Cliff	Mr. Oliver Richards

The Curate, Reverend Julia Lall attended as an observer

Church Attendance

There are 68 parishioners on the Electoral Roll.

The church has maintained a regular pattern of worship, with services being held weekly. The first Sunday is a Family Service, and in February 2012 a new style of family worship was introduced, and is attracting a wider number of people who prefer a non-Eucharistic service. It is planned and led by the Reader, Lay Elders and several members of the congregation.

A service of Holy Communion is held on the second and fourth Sundays, and on the third Sunday there is a service of Holy Communion with Laying on Hands.

The average Sunday attendance is 20 at Family Services and 13 on other Sundays. The attendance at the Easter Sunday Dawn Service was 7 and at the 9.30 Easter Sunday Eucharist was 33, the total attendance during October was 54, and the attendance at the Midnight 27 Eucharist

During the year there were 3 baptisms, and 2 weddings, one Blessing of a Marriage, and 1 funeral.

Review of the year

The PCC met four times during the year. It has decided that the focus for PCC meetings in 2013 will be Generosity.

'The Monday Morning Group' has continued to meet fortnightly in the Village Hall for bible study, coffee and a chat.

Members of the congregation, the clergy and some members of the Ministry Team maintain a regular church presence at the Wickham Skeith Lunch Club, and at other village events.

The flower festival was held from 5th – 7th May, and as always the displays were stunning.

The highlight of the year was the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. St Andrew's participated in a bell ringing safari around the benefice, and joined in with village celebrations.

In July, St Andrew's hosted the benefice service, when Reverend Philip Banks, Canon Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral preached and presided.

In September, St Andrew's took part in the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride, and this was very well supported. Later in the month the Harvest celebrations included the Harvest Evensong, the Harvest Horkey and the Harvest Festival service

We continue to be very grateful for those who arrange flowers, clean and maintain the building, and tidy up the church grounds. We thank Mr. Ronald Wright, our organist, and the Choir for enhancing our worship, and our other organists Mrs. Anita Kemp and Mrs. Jilly Newstead who play occasionally.

We have greatly appreciated the support that we have received from the Friends of St Andrew's throughout the year, particularly the regular Bingo evenings, the Jumble sale that was held in February, and a concert that was held at St Andrew's Church,Cotton.

The Benefice Ministry Team of three Readers and three Elders has continued to work with the Rector and the Curate in promoting the mission and ministry of the Church across the benefice, and we were pleased to welcome back Mr Peter Paine following a six month break from his duties for health reasons. At the end of the year our Curate was appointed to a new post with effect from April 2013, and plans are in place for applying to train another Curate in due course.

We have once again been very grateful for the support of our Rural Dean, Reverend Barbara Bilston, and for the contributions of our guest preachers, Dennis Sore and Andrew McKie who this year preached at the two Harvest services.

Reverend Julia Lall, Curate March 2013