

St. Andrew's Church, Wickham Skeith
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
Year Ended December 31st, 2023

At the APCM on April 30th 2023 there were 31 people on the Electoral Roll, of whom 27 are resident within the parish and 4 live outside the parish.

The average weekly attendance was 10 when all special services were discounted.

The Harvest collection at the end of September resulted in a very substantial amount of tinned & dried food being sent to the Stowmarket Food Bank for which they were very grateful. They thought it may have been our largest Harvest donation ever.

The Remembrance service in church resulted in a collection of £179 for the Royal British Legion.

57 came to the candlelit carol service held at 4pm on 23rd December and 28 to the Christmas Eve service held once again at 9pm to simplify staffing. The Christmas collections of £375.40 went to the Red Cross.

In 2023, there were 0 baptisms or weddings in church but there were 3 funerals and a burial of ashes.

St Andrew's hosted 3 benefice services during 2023.

The members of the PCC met four times during 2023 plus the annual meeting which was held as a Benefice, sharing all the reports common to all PCCs and breaking into separate groups for specific reports and elections.

There were also 4 meetings of the Benefice Council which consists of all Benefice churchwardens and members of the Ministry team who meet to discuss service rotas and affairs affecting everyone.

As both the PCC group of fundraisers and the Friends of St Andrew's committee were rather depleted in numbers it was decided to combine forces to plan events and to decide whether the money raised from each event would be paid to the PCC account to help with regular costs or paid to FOSA towards the next big repair outlay.

In 2023 the lead on the tower roof had to be patched twice to reduce water ingress so we know that a full re-leading must take place as soon as possible.

Our fund raisers worked as hard as ever with at least one event in most months. All events were enthusiastically supported and provided fun and happy social occasions as well as generous monetary support: Pete's Quiz in April, the Grand National Sweepstake, a concert by Robert & Rachel Cohen in May, Open Gardens in July, Gislingham Silver Band in August, a Pudding Evening in September, the Christmas Pudding Stir-up in November. Margaret's regular Book Sale Coffee mornings from Spring through to Autumn continue to be well supported and Pennies boxes are still in circulation.

Mike Hubbard of Mellis continues to mow the churchyard regularly from March/April through to November. Costs have risen but he makes sure the area is tidy and also mows the conservation area in August.

Thanks once again go to all the people who contribute in so many ways to the life and upkeep of the Church community and building, especially the fund raisers, cleaners and flower arrangers and particularly to Sue Merriam, Louise Reinders & Jos Bryant who help Margaret & Liz with the unlocking and locking of the church each day.

Liz Davidson and Margaret Jones-Evans, our churchwardens, deserve thanks for all that they do but St Andrew's is a church whose welcoming atmosphere comes from all its members.