

Churchwarden's Report for year ended December 2023

At the beginning of the year, January 2023, the future was looking a lot brighter than in the previous years; the threat of covid still hung in the air, but, with vaccination this threat was very much diminished. Our vicar, James, was now firmly established and ministering to the three parishes.

Church attendance for normal Sunday services averaged 16. On Festival days the congregation was considerably higher.

A much welcomed addition was the use of the church by the local Church of England Infants School with Christingle, Leavers, and other services held in church. This reflected the active presence of James through his regular visits to the school.

Two Thanksgiving Services, 2 Funerals, 1 adult Baptism, 1 child Baptism and 1 Wedding took place.

In November the Polish Community held their annual All Saints Day Service around the graves of their loved ones who had lived here during the 1940's and 1950's.

Fabric and Churchyard.

There was little activity this year as there were no major items contained in the current Quinquennial Report. We have various groups who keep the church clean and tidy, others who polish the brass, and finally those arrange the flowers especially at Christmas and Easter, All these people are voluntary helpers and are essential to the upkeep of the church, their work within the church building is evident to all who enter the church and we thank them for their dedication and to the skills they bring to the care of the building and its environs.

The maintenance of the grass and hedges is also carried out by volunteers who work on a rota basis.

Fund Raising and Events.

The year commenced with our New Year's Day Ramble which was followed by refreshments in the church, and were enjoyed by all.

The Fun Run took place on the 21st May 2023 with 185 runners over the 10kms circuit. This was well organised and produced useful funds for the church. This has been such a popular event and is an occasion for the whole community to come together in close proximity to the church and using the church facilities. Thanks should be given to all those who marshalled the event and to those who helped in other ways with refreshments etc. Medals were distributed at the end to those who had done particularly well.

Plant Sale.

A sale of plants was held in the churchyard on the 4th. June.

A successful event with plenty of plants sold plus refreshments provided from the church kitchen. Plants continued to be sold over the next few days . All helpers, those preparing the plants for sale, those setting up the stalls on the morning of the sale, and those involved in running the stalls during the afternoon should be thanked for their efforts in making this a very successful fund raising event.

Steam Rally.

This event is run for the benefit of the village with the church running the tea and refreshment tent. This undertaking provides very useful funds towards the upkeep of All Saints Church. Thanks to all concerned on this very long, busy day. Special thanks to the bakers across the village and beyond!

All Saints Church Choir Concert.

This event was held during the evening of the 1st. September. The church choir were in fine form on stage within church providing a variety of music and sketches based on well known shows. Drinks and nibbles were served during a short interval and the evening rounded up with the audience waving Union flags reminiscent of the last Night of the Proms.

Harvest Supper.

Our Harvest Supper was held in the Millennium Hall, Marsworth on Friday evening of the 13th October. This supper precedes the Harvest Festival Service held on the following Sunday morning. Excellent food was provided locally and the evening was very much enjoyed by all.

Church Floodlighting.

This takes place from the 1st December, to the 6th January.

The cost of this is borne by individual donations. This event shows the church off to its best on gloomy winter evenings and is very special for many, many people both near and far.

Advent Windows.

Traditional scenes are displayed in various windows throughout the village during Advent. It is interesting to walk round and view the different displays so imaginatively constructed.

The financial effect of all these events will be included in the Treasurer's Report.

This concludes the Churchwarden's Report for 2023.

John H. White, Churchwarden.