

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT 2020

A weekly service of Holy Communion is held at one of our church buildings, St Mary's, Rickinghall, the Chapel of Ease, Botesdale, and All Saints, Redgrave. Twice a month they start at 9.15am and the other two Sundays at 10.30am. The 9.15am service is followed by an interactive informal service where we explore together what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Once a month there is a service of Evening Prayer at Rickinghall. Monthly midweek Holy Communion services are held at St Mary's, Rickinghall and Farnish House, and these are open to anyone, as all of our church services are. Messy Church, for adults and children, is held monthly in Botesdale Village Hall. In 2019, we started an inter-generational event 'The Get Together' - a time to meet, eat, and explore faith together, held at Botesdale Village Hall once a month in an afternoon.

We have had various social activities, usually involving food, although our Lent course before Easter was on 'Fasting and its benefits', both spiritual and self-control. You can also 'fast' by not watching TV, not using the computer, and in other ways. We joined with the Methodists for the course and learnt a lot. The monthly **Men's Breakfast** is at All Saints, and men from the all the villages are welcome. **Headspace for women** (coffee and chat) is held weekly at All Saints, Redgrave and women are welcome.

We followed the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative by the Archbishops and prayed for our neighbourhoods and nation for a week as we stayed at home, walked, or drove though the villages, and the churches were open for prayer. We do a lot of praying, and if you should want prayer for yourself, please contact Revd Chris Norburn (details in Parish Magazine).

A **confirmation** service led by Bishop Mike, Bishop of Dunwich, was held at St Mary's Rickinghall in September at which two adults were confirmed. There was a **Service of Rededication of the Church bells** at St Mary's Redgrave, with Bishop Martin, Diocesan Bishop. Delicious refreshments were supplied by the bell ringers. Our main **Harvest celebrations** were held with a service at Star Wing Brewery, opposite St Mary's, Redgrave. followed by a simple lunch of bread, provided by Mick the Baker, cheeses and pickles. The 'harvest' gifts went to the Waveney Food Bank whom we support on a regular basis donating over 700kg of food during 2019. We were aware of God's presence and blessing. At the end of November, the **Advent Bazaar** in St Mary's, Rickinghall, was a time of peace and relaxation before the busyness of Christmas. Once again it was a time of thinking about celebrating Jesus's birthday on Christmas Day. We also enjoyed **Carols on The Knoll**, Redgrave, with the Diss Salvation Army Band accompanying us. This year, for various reasons, it was held in All Saints, Redgrave, and so we were warmer though some of us missed not seeing the stars, clouds, and wind.

Over the course of the year there were various Ecumenical Events when we meet and had fellowship with members of the Methodist Church and Parkview Chapel. These including the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a united Pentecost Celebration, The Lent course, joint services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, and the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, as well as united services when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

The back page of the Parish Magazine contains information on our services and events, and you would be very welcome to join us. Please note we now have a parish Church website: www.rbrchurch.org.uk

Frances Lamb, PCC Secretary