

St Mary the Virgin, Huntingfield Annual report 2022-23

Over the last year the PCC has met 5 times. Dominic Doble, our Priest in charge since Aug '21 has chaired each meeting, the PCC are grateful for his Leadership and guidance. Regular monthly services are held in the church; Morning prayer, Holy Communion and Evensong.

In the last year there have been; 3 marriages, 3 Ashes interments and 2 approved grave reservations.

The main project for 22/23 has been the restoration and repair to the East and West windows. The total cost of this project was just over £23,000 It was funded by a combination of grants, donations and fundraising by the PCC.

The Fundraising group has met twice in the past year and as a consequence a variety of events have been held in the church and Village Hub;

2 concerts by the Aurora Consort

- 1) To raise funds towards the restoration of the East & West windows
- 2) A winter/seasonal concert fundraising for a local charity 'The Pear Tree Fund'

Pamela Holmes the author of 'The Huntingfield Paintress' gave an informative & interesting presentation on the writing of the novel. All proceeds went to the 'window' fund.

Parts of the church roof have been repaired, so we no longer need to put a bucket under the drips!

During the cold spell we had a frozen tap and pipe burst. These were fortunately repaired quickly.

On the Thursday of the Jubilee weekend the Halesworth Bell-ringing team arrived to ring the inaugural 'Huntingfield Peal'. Many locals gathered in the churchyard to witness this event. The sun shone, tea was drunk and the bells rang out!

In celebration of the Queen's Jubilee a display of '70 glorious years in Huntingfield' was in the church for all to see. Over the Jubilee weekend many visitors enjoyed the display, homemade cakes and refreshments and music from a local harpist, Miss Wren Pretty. We were delighted to welcome our local MP Therese Coffey who 'popped' in to see the display. The church welcomed 36 very excited children all dressed as Kings and Queens to process down to the village on the backs of 2 vintage tractors and trailers where celebrations continued.

In September the church was involved in 'Ride and Stride' raising much needed funds for Suffolk churches.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust paid a visit to the churchyard at the request of the Churchwarden. They assessed the management of the churchyard and gave some good advice. Their full report can be found on our website.

The village mourned the death of the Queen in September and the church bell was tolled.

October we gathered in the Hub for Harvest Supper prepared and cooked by members of the PCC. It was well attended and after supper a short montage of village scenes set to music was shown to round off the evening. The PCC are grateful to Helen Cannon for compiling this for us. All proceeds went into the Fabric fund.

All the Harvest gifts were donated to Halesworth Community Larder.

In November we held our Remembrance Day service around the War memorial. Thanks go to Rose Thompson, a teenager of the village for reading out the names of our fallen. In the church a 'silent tribute' was on display leading up to 11/11 and afterwards, this was much appreciated by all who saw it.

To raise awareness of the Halesworth Community Larder a 'Souper Saturday' was held in the Hub in March. There were various homemade soups on offer and people were encouraged to try as many as they liked for a small donation of cash, food or toiletries. At the end of the day a boot full of donations plus £105 was given to the Community Larder.

We have a new set of postcards for sale which are proving very popular. They sell for £1 each and over the last year have sold approx 500+
Secondhand books and jigsaws continue to bring in donations and as if by magic they replenish themselves!

The contactless machine has been installed and is proving to be a wise investment. The PCC thanked Tony Morelli for his guidance and expertise in setting this up.

To date we are still waiting for our CWGC plaque.