

Report of Parochial Church Council of St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe

The report for the year ending 31st December 2020 is a very different report from ones in previous years due to the covid pandemic.

Like all of our lives, everything in the church life has been affected - our church services, our ability to meet and visit and to fundraise in a way never seen in recent times.

Most of 2020 (and currently ongoing) was taken over by the COVID-19 crisis and Government regulations meant that we closed the church on 23rd March 2020 and did not reopen until 2nd August 2020. We then closed again after Christmas 2020 and re-opened on March 2021.

For re-opening, we have been under detailed guidance and regulations both from the Government and from the Church of England. Services have been shortened, and sometimes we have had to limit the number of people who were able to attend worship.

We would like to thank everyone who has attended a service during these restrictions and for adhering to the regulations.

We were able to have our Remembrance Sunday service outside, on a cold but lovely day, which added to the solemnity of the occasion.

Our income has been severely reduced, we have not been able to have any fundraising (no fete) and no monthly coffee mornings.

On a positive note, the south aisle roof, following the lead theft in 2018, has been replaced. This was done during June 2020. Villagers may remember some rather enthusiastic pigeons who continued to set off the roof alarm! Thankfully they seemed to move somewhere else after a week or so.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard, some visible and others less so. We thank all members of the PCC who have served in the year without whom we could not function. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Ruth Dashwood who has just recently resigned from the PCC after more than 40 years service.

We are very lucky to have a team of volunteers who get involved in cutting and tending the graveyard. Thanks also to those who have cleaned, tidied and polished the inside of the church especially after long closures.

We are very grateful to the work done by our church wardens, for all the work that Rosemary Jarvis does in the church and the community and for Lisa Wenmouth for playing the organ in our services. And not forgetting the congregation who continue to offer support and take part in our services.

We hope that we will soon be able to go back to our coffee mornings and we are meeting in May when we hope to be able to agree a date for our Fete this year.