

Annual Report 2018 from St. Michael and All Angels Farthinghoe

In the autumn we said a sad farewell to Rev Simon Dommett our Rector and we wish him every success in his future ministry. We officially welcomed Rev Sue Cooper on 30th March 2019 and during the interregnum we have tried to keep as many of our regular services as possible.

We really value having the church open is open to our community for private prayer or just to sit in the stillness. We are very grateful to Rosemary Jarvis who opens and closes the church each day, regardless of the weather!

We continue to welcome people into the church for baptisms and weddings and we have also held the funerals of village friends and relatives.

It was lovely to see such a full church at the Remembrance Service which was followed by the lighting of the beacon. The collection was given to the Royal British Legion. The church was full again for the Crib Service and as in previous years, the collection was passed to the Children's Society.

Outside of our services, our monthly coffee morning continues to thrive, organised and run by Rosemary Jarvis. As well as the coffee (or tea) and cake, we also have a raffle and the coffee mornings generated some £855 for church funds. Our annual Fete is also a very important fundraiser and we thank everyone who attends or helps. We also thank Macintyre's Estate Agents for their donation of the signs which brings in new people each year.

Our two largest expenses are the Parish Share and the insurance. The Parish share is our contribution to the costs across the Peterborough Diocese and only 5 years ago it was £3,500. For 2018 it was £7,200, more than double, so our fundraising and regular collections are even more important for us to keep the church going. If anyone would like to help with a donation, then please contact Vic Tolchard, our Treasurer.

Sadly in September, the church suffered two lead thefts on consecutive nights. We are currently working with the DAC and SNC to agree an alternative replacement material. We have received our insurance settlement, but this will fall short of the amount needed and we have started to look at sources for funds and grants.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard, some visible and others less so. There are so many jobs, large and small that are handled during the year and the church would not be able to operate without this help.

We thank our two churchwardens, Rosemary Jarvis and Lisa Wenmouth, and our PCC members who also welcome people into the church at the start of the services. We are also very grateful to Lisa for her playing the organ at our services and special thanks for the work done by Rosemary for the church and community.

Finally, if you have not been to one of our services we would love to see you with us!

This is an excerpt from the main report done for the Church Council and a copy of this will be available in the church following our meeting on 23rd April.