

Most people will have seen the account in the village magazine and will be aware that we are at last resuming normal church functions, services and our monthly PCC, all of which had to be abandoned due to Covid. All PCC members are taking safeguarding training.

Our church, which is acknowledged to be outstanding, especially its porch, is described in Simon Jenkins' "A Thousand Best Churches". We are doing our utmost to maintain it, and, with the help of small grants, have been able to complete extensive repairs to the rain water ingress and the lead on its tower and north roof. Replacing the stolen lead on the South roof has been delayed by Covid. A photograph of it appeared in the EDP recently bemoaning the fragile state after robbery. Further costs have arisen recently as a result of vandalism on the windows of the porch, which were new, having just been replaced after previous similar damage.

During Covid we have begun to re-wild the churchyard, keeping the war graves clear, but allowing some parts of the churchyard to grow naturally. Some of it will be cut in June and then all will be cut and cleared in September, according to best practice. Anyone who wants to clear round their loved one's grave can do so. There are also plans to plant trees. We have created a group of Friends of St. Mary who are helping us to reach out to the community as much as we can, because we aim to make more use of the church building, (which has a kitchen, toilet, heating and a beautiful space), for the community. With this in mind we have organised a Concert with the Pulham Market Orchestra on Saturday 9th April at 6.30 for 7.00pm. On Saturday 19th March we are holding a games afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm, which we hope will develop as a place to relax and chat. A Christian Aid Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 19th May. Our annual plant sale (which was delayed last year) will be held on the 14th May from 10am to 12 noon. All events include refreshments.

We are delighted that the Parish Council proposes to refurbish the War Memorial. When that is completed it will proudly display those names, as they deserve. Indeed we look forward to working with the Parish Council, along with Pennoyers, for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. This will be a wonderful chance for the village to work together for the common good and enjoy the happy celebrations.

Is it possible to combine to help some refugees too?

Marian Wilson 07/03/202

(Chair PCC)