

PULHAM ST MARY PCC
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

We had 8 members on the Council but this has changed now to 7. We met 10 times during the year meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 3.30pm. We had one extra ordinary meeting in July regarding repairs to stop water getting into the church.

Our first event was the annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at the church which is always a busy morning and bacon rolls selling as well as all the wonderful plants grown by Mrs Ellis. This was followed by the annual Coffee Morning which raised lots of money for Christian Aid.

Following on from the questionnaire which the church did, we now have a regular, or we hope will be regular, Games afternoon in the church. We met in May, June and September. Adults as well as children are welcome to do board games, play cards or just enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and cake! A flower arranging group was also set up as a result of the questionnaire meeting in Dickleburgh church rooms every week. This has attracted a lot of ladies from Pulham St Mary and Dickleburgh but is open to anyone in the Benefice.

This year we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee with a fete in the grounds of the church. The weather was perfect and it was so lovely to see so many people enjoying the afternoon together.

Another successful event was Afternoon Tea and tours of the church in August. Again the weather was good and people were able to enjoy their teas outside.

December was our Christmas Bazaar in the church with light lunches and hot drinks!

Services throughout the year were: Pet service, Harvest Festival followed by Harvest lunch and auction of produce. Money raised goes to Christian Aid and tinned, packaged, jars of food go to the Waveney Food Bank. Toy service with gifts brought to be given to the Salvation Army to deliver to those in need in Diss and local area. The usual Carol service and crib service. The Christmas Eve Midnight service was held this year in Pulham Market. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month we have one service alternating through the churches in the Benefice.

We had a group of Carol singers who went round part of the village and they raised money for the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

We had several working parties in the churchyard with a final complete cut in September. We plan to have a cut in June. The Paths, ground next to the church and newer graves are mown regularly by volunteers. Money given by the Parish Council paid for someone to keep the paths and graves tidy. We planted a Field Maple tree on the North/Eastern boundary in October to commemorate the Queens platinum jubilee. We hope to plant hedging along that boundary to replace the broken wooden fence and the brambles.

Church restoration work. The guttering needed repairing, replacing on the north side of the church. Once scaffolding was put up it became apparent that lead on the roof near the vestry needed replacing so money we had secured for the water goods had to be spent on the lead and we were able to get a further grant to cover the cost of the intended work. Water still enters the church in various places, but in particular one area near the children's corner had been coming in for a while so it was decided it would be sensible to do this and we are waiting for this to be done. A shelf has been made using wood from unused kneelers, for the Memorial Book to rest on. Some money had been received following a court case regarding the broken windows in the porch.

Our printing team continue to produce a monthly magazine as well as Christmas cards and calendars. We are grateful to them for this work, and to the people who deliver them. Sadly we lost Cate Allwood who had lived in the village for sometime and was also editor of the magazine. She is greatly missed. Claire Lee's work in finding advertisers and sending invoices is much appreciated also.