Pulham St Mary Annual report 2024/25

We have 9 people on the PCC who meet every other month in Pulham St.Mary. We hold a service every Sunday now at 11am, previously 9.30am, with an 8am communion on the first Sunday of the month. The Benefice meet for a service in one church when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. We also have a new All age service with breakfast first. This is a short service for new people/families.

The year started with a parish meeting informing parishioners of the poor state of the church. This meeting was well attended showing support for the church. Names were taken of those willing to help raise a million pounds. The Friends of St Mary's was reformed. Another meeting was held to form a committee. Unfortunately our architect was so busy she was unavailable so it was clear we needed to find another architect who could take on this project asap. A new architect has been appointed and we look forward to moving forward now. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have met at the church and were in agreement with our proposals to changes inside the church.

We are waiting for a conservators report on the East window. A bat report and death watch beetle report have been done and a quote received for restoring the bells. When the roof is done we would like to have solar panels fitted on the south roof where the lead was removed.

A Lent course was held in the Dickleburgh church rooms. Each parish provided a meal before the course started. This was very popular and was followed by a 15 week course "Jesus shaped People." New service booklets have been produced for use by all the parishes in the Benefice.

Fundraising this year included plant sale, fete, afternoon tea and Christmas bazaar which goes towards the running costs of the church. The Friends organised a very successful jumble sale and our Toy festival profits going to our project. A coffee morning in May raised funds for Christian Aid. Our Harvest festival raised funds for YANA. Toy service helped provide gifts for less fortunate children in our area distributed by the Salvation Army.

The Crib service this year was very well attended which will take place again this year. A service of Midnight Mass will continue to be held at Pulham Market and Starston churches We held our first wreath making course and Stir up Saturday this year both proved very popular and we had lots of orders for Christmas cakes, puddings and Yule logs all proceeds going towards church running costs.

At Christmas all the churches in the Benefice had an illuminated star on the tower and everyone was encouraged to put stars in their windows for Follow the Star theme.

Our electrical stand alone annual testing was carried out and fire extinguishers tested. The cameras on the roof are regularly inspected. The organ and clock both have an annual inspection.

The churchyard had a cut in June, then September and October. This is done voluntarily but the paths through and round the churchyard and round the perimeter of the church are done regularly as is the war memorial. The War Graves are also kept tidy. We have a very large churchyard and are grateful to our helpers and the Parish Council for their support.