

Holy Trinity Church Annual Report 2023

Churchyard

Our closed Churchyard has been maintained regularly by the Parish Council.

The grass is cut throughout the growing season, with monitoring of the trees, the cherry tree where a decayed branch had been lopped appears to be growing well.

The Topples testing for loose gravestones carried out regularly.

An enormous amount of brambles and ivy have been cleared near West door of the Church and alongside the school path side of the churchyard, this had been a point of concern to passers-by. Our grateful thanks go to the person employed by the PC who has spent time and effort, this last year in clearing and tidying in what was quite a task. The hedges front, side and back of the church have been trimmed according to growth and allowing for bird nesting activities.

PCC and PC meet regularly throughout the year, to monitor the Churchyard.

Mission

In early 2023 with Interregnum continued following Brin Singleton's retirement in October 2022. With the assistance of the Benefice's Lay Elder's, visiting clergy and the Arch Deacon we were able to continue with services, Mothering Sunday, Easter. Baptisms, Weddings, funerals and Remembrance Sunday.

On a sad note Open the Book leader retired this year, after a dedicated 12 years.

We welcomed Freeman Primary School for their Easter service, also their Harvest service where the children's gifts contributed greatly towards the Stowmarket Food Bank. Once again at Christmas the children brought Joy and Song.

The new housing being built in the village and around gave us the opportunity and pleasure to welcome new people to Holy Trinity.

Coronation - King Charles 3rd and Camilla, Queen Consort, were crowned King and Queen at Westminster Abbey 6th June 2023. A momentous occasion, at Holy Trinity we held a Thanksgiving Service to Celebrate.

New Incumbent - June 29th 2023

We Welcomed the Rev Paul Clarke at his licensing at St Mary's Church for the Benefice of Haughley Wetherden and Stowupland.

Advent - All the Joys of Emmanuel gave a warm feeling of something exciting to come:

- Christingle in aid of the Children's Society.
- Carol Service by candlelight along with the Stowmarket Brass Band in the Church.
- Carols in the Crown this had many hearty voices singing along with an accompanying musician.
- Christmas Eve, the afternoon crib service attended by young and old, a moving event.

- Midnight Communion - A Benefice Service was held at Holy Trinity, with A family Communion at Wetherden on Christmas Day.

Ukraine - The conflict of War with Russia is well into two years, we continue to pray for many people, not only in Ukraine but around the world who have lost their homes and lives from War and famine.

Social and Fundraising

The Spring Craft Fair, Christmas Fair, Coffee, Cake, Chat mornings and afternoon teas all very well attended and helped raise much needed funds for the maintenance of Holy Trinity.

Our Flower Festival was held - Saturday 17th Sunday 18th June

The Church filled with colour, perfume and imagination in all the displays, following the theme of...A Poem.

We are grateful to all who willingly offer their services each year when the festival comes along.

Ann Doubtfire and Sue Hayter, Church Wardens