

## **Stowupland Chapel 2023 Report for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

Sadly, despite all the new houses in the village our numbers are still down each Sunday compared to a few years ago. We have a variety of speakers who give very fulfilling messages. During the week of prayer for Christian Unity, in January, Holy Trinity joined with us at the Chapel for a united service. On 24 September we united in the evening at 6.30pm, with Holy Trinity at the Church for a Songs of Praise and on 1 October Holy Trinity joined with the Chapel at 10.30am. Both services were celebrations of Harvest. Once again, the gifts of non-perishable goods were taken to the food bank and the collection from 1 October was sent to Farm Community Network.

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride was on Saturday 9 September when the Chapel was open to sign in riders and walkers from 9am to 5pm. £185.000 was raised in sponsorship money for Historic Churches, half of which is then returned to the Chapel. It was pleasing to see that the numbers were up on last year.

The Carol Service collection was sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Coffee mornings continue to be held on the last Friday of the month when a time of fellowship with others is enjoyed. Whist drives are generally held once a month but with a limit on numbers.

The Hall continues to be hired for various meeting etc.

We ask for God's blessing on our work as we continue to be a witness here in Stowupland.

Joyce Gardiner