

Annual Reports

2019

Contents

Vicar's Letter

Come and

Fabric reports:

St A Church

St A Hall

St N

St P&P

Ladybirds

Monday Fellowship

Pop-up Shop

Woman's Hour

Women's Fellowship

Vicar's Letter

The APCM at Old Felixstowe will, I guess, always for me mark an anniversary. I arrived in the parish two years ago just prior to the APCM and it is a good time to stop, reflect and give thanks for what has happened in the previous year. We have, as followers of Jesus, continued to meet and worship throughout the weeks, faithfully worshipping, praying and hearing God's word. I would like to thank the large number of people who have been a part of enabling this to happen in a whole variety of ways, from the welcome team and musicians, the cleaners and preachers to name just a few. Each of us brings our gifts and skills to enable the worship to occur and it is a good example of the church being the body of Christ with all parts having an important role.

In the autumn we spent some time exploring the theme of "Fruitfulness on the Frontline," thinking about how we are called to be engaged in mission in all of our lives and how all of us have a place where we are called to share what following Jesus means to us (our frontline.) As part of this we have introduced the idea of "this time tomorrow" into our services where we hear about what different members of our congregation will be doing when they are not at church. I hope this has helped us to get to know about each other and to pray for each other on our frontlines.

In home groups and in church we used the materials from the Prayer Course to help us explore how we can pray more. Many people spoke about how they enjoyed thinking about elements of their prayer lives in a different way.

We were also a part of the Churches Together in Felixstowe Lent course which was run in locations across the town and it was good to discuss issues around our faith with fellow Christians across the town.

Towards the end of 2019 Revd David White was licensed by Archdeacon Jeanette to be associate priest in the Parish. It has been a pleasure to welcome David into this role and I am sure we all look forward to benefitting from his ministry going forward. I know many who were involved in the singing group who contributed to our carol service speak with great enthusiasm about David's gifts in this area.

2019 was also the year when we launched our BASIC pop up shop in St Peter and St Paul. This has seen a team gather to collect, prepare and help distribute food. Over the course of the year a community has grown up around the Pop Up Shop and coffee, cake and conversation abound on Thursday mornings in the Link. It is wonderful to serve in this way, partnering with BASIC life charity and help prosper our community.

A further way that we have reached out to our community is through our monthly "Come and.." family activity where each month we offer an invite to children and their families in our parish to join us for a variety of activities ranging from cooking to gardening, and craft to Lego. This has meant we have spent time getting to know our community as well as have lots of fun. A huge thanks go to the wide team who have been involved in this activity from making cakes, greeting people as they arrive to running each activity. Thank you also to all those who have supported this through faithfully praying and asking God to bless the efforts.

We have also this year continued to reach out and connect

with our local primary schools. I have been in to take assemblies and with a small team we have greeted the children for a number of sessions in church, as well as being invited in to take RE lessons. This has been great fun and it is a privilege to be involved in the work of schools supporting them whenever we are able. We also hosted a BOOST education prayer evening where people from across the town gathered to pray for all those involved in education. Please do continue to pray for our schools as they seek to make a positive impact on the lives of young people.

This is really only a small part of what we have done as church this year, we have continued to gather and worship throughout the week and grow in our relationship with God, continued to minister to all in our community and continued to seek to bless the places God has called us to be. Thank you for the way we have shared this calling to be light and salt in our community.

There is also much to look forward to and I ask that we would all continue to pray that we might hear God's voice and step out in confidence in what He is calling us to do at this time.

Rev Chris Hood

Come and...

"Come and.." is a new outreach to engage with families of children attending the 3 primary schools within OFP. Since this initiative began in January 2019, we have enjoyed activities such as "grow", "make", "build", "cook" and "make music". It takes place in the OFCA building on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, regardless of school holidays and is delivered by a team of volunteers from within the parish. A rota of generous parish bakers provide us with fresh cake each month to accompany the juice, tea and coffee. Over the year, 64 children have taken part. Our average attendance is 16, and we have 2 children who have come to 11 of the 12 sessions. We have continued to see newcomers right through to the December "get ready for Christmas" which was held in the church. It is a requirement that all children come with an adult – a mixture of Mums, Dads, and Grandparents. No charge is made for the activity and the children always have something nice to take home at the end along with information about upcoming sessions. Photographs of all the 2019 sessions have been displayed in the Link and are on the parish website and Facebook page.

Becky Copestake

Fabric Reports:

St Andrew's Church

No major repairs to the church fabric were carried out during the year, a continued monitoring of the spalling concrete is being maintained.

General maintenance, including high level gutter cleaning and patching up of the heating duct where birds have pecked holes in the insulation covering was carried out periodically.

St Andrew's Hall

The long running problem with tripping light circuits was solved - vermin (most probably squirrels) gnawing away at the wiring.

St Nicholas

In 2019 the refurbishment continued of St Nicholas with less noticeable damage from the winter ravages.

In March 2019 48 recycled material and metal chairs were purchased from a village community centre to replace the fading mismatched plastic chairs. Remaining chairs were rationalised leaving seating capacity set by the PCC at 70 for future events. A variety of other updates were completed in redecoration and removal of defunct items as well as general tidying.

The usual annual safety checks were completed with a further fire extinguisher added, the disaster plan reassessed and a significant repair to make the back door watertight and secure. With these improvements St Nicholas was a popular venue for church activities like craft group and social events and other churches (4 Away days) and community organisations (Felixstowe in Music and Felixstowe Book Festival to name but two) utilising the building particularly during the summer months. All events contributed donations to the upkeep and use of the building.

Sunday Evening services continued to be hosted for 4 months with an extended period in October being trialled. In November the Quinquennial inspection was received having been brought forward a year to allow fabric and building needs across the Parish to be unified in an overall perspective. Supporting the Ferry Community specifically by inviting residents through a mail box delivery to a Carol Service proved popular in demand which became a ticket only event to limit numbers being set at 60 after a risk assessment.

St Peter and St Paul

There has been regular maintenance to both the building and church yard at St Peter and St Paul church during the year.

The Link window frames have been repainted inside and out and routine maintenance and servicing has been carried out throughout the buildings. There have been no major issues this year.

The church has been kept neat and tidy by the church members who go in and clean each week, and we are grateful for their help.

The local council maintains the church yard with regular grass cutting and hedge trimming.

In addition to the council work in the church yard much has been done by various groups of volunteers who meet on a regular basis. One group help to clear vegetation near the buildings and moss on pathways to give clear and safe access as well as clearing ivy from the graves. Poppy Trail 2 gave an incentive to continue maintaining the war graves in the church yard. There is now a Commonwealth War Graves Commission notice to acknowledge the war graves in the church yard as well as a seen/unseen Tommy. The Garden of Remembrance is kept tidy by a weekly work group in the summer.

Thanks must go to all those groups who quietly meet and get on with the many tasks required to keep the church and grounds in good order.

Pop up shop

The Basic Pop up Shop which is held on Thursday mornings in the Link at St Peter and St Paul Church has been running for a year and has grown into a social event for many of the regular customers.

When we started we hoped to provide a service for those in the community who found themselves short of food, for whatever reason. We now find that many come for the social side as well as the food items. We usually have sticky buns and cakes, coffee and cake can be a real treat for those who live alone or with limited finances.

We have a team of volunteers who collect food each Wednesday from the Basic shop in Felixstowe, from both Lidl stores and from Krusty bakery. This is then sorted and displayed ready for Thursday morning.

We have a regular supply of food from Basic Charity, such as pasta, tinned goods cereals, crisps for which we contribute financially each month. Fresh bread comes from the Lidl stores each week along with variable amounts of fruit and veg and flowers.

On Thursday a different group of volunteers meet for prayer and a chance to chat before welcoming and serving at the Pop up shop. Customers pay £1 or £2 for a bag which they can fill as they wish. After the initial rush of customers there is time to get to know the people better and a chance to listen.

Many of the regular customers came to our parish harvest service and lunch and some are now coming to church services.

We are really grateful for the help we have received from Rev Chris and the parish both in prayer and in volunteer helpers and hope to continue successfully in the future.

Ladybirds

The Ladybirds women's group meets on Thursday evenings twice a month in the Link and during 2019 we have had a variety of speakers and events, some secular some church based. The topics have varied with outside speakers talking about Prison Visiting, the building of the tower at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and Votes for Women. Locally we learnt about the Town Pastors, the Hope Trust and CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

Our church family shared their experiences and skills: Ann Eve and Vivian spoke about going to sea with their husbands, Dorothy Stokes shared her knowledge of Aboriginal art, Edyth talked about her counselling work and Margaret Jennings had us doing musical exercises. We all watched in awe as three of our flower arranging members showed how flowers should look at Easter.

We had social events as well and our annual lunch in January at The Ferry Boat Inn was well attended. We had a summer social at St Nicholas at the Ferry and Christmas found us being wonderfully entertained by David Walton.

A small group of members prepared over 100 small flower arrangements that are given out on Mothering Sunday. This was ably organised by Val Benns.

As well as the regular Thursday meetings, there is a Ladybirds home group, hosted by Irene Grant. They meet twice a month on Tuesday afternoons, with up to 10 members attending.

There are about 16-20 members at most evening meetings and new members would be made most welcome.

Rochee Green

Monday Fellowship

Monday Fellowship meets from 12.30 to 2.00 every Monday (except bank holidays and during August). We enjoy a 'bring and share' lunch while catching up with each other's news and getting to know each other better, and this is followed by a Bible study usually lasting about half an hour. At the moment we are learning about some of the women of the Bible: recently we have looked at Eve, Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah as well as some of Jesus' women disciples. More usually we work through a book of the Bible – last year we spent many months getting our heads and hearts round the book of Romans. All are welcome: numbers usually range at about 20-25, including 4 new members this past year. We have also lost dear Richard Lodge, one of our treasured leaders.

Woman's Hour

This report covers the year 2019. We continue to always have a bible reading, hymn and prayer to start the afternoon and a cup of tea and biscuit, at the end of our meeting. We are in the process of planning what should be another year of happy Tuesday afternoons. Occasionally members of our Church family and other very kind friends have very generously given an hour of their time on a Tuesday afternoon to come and speak to our ladies on either a serious or amusing subject; Irene brought bulbs and compost along in October for us to plant and I have had very good reports on how well they have grown so maybe we shall be able to have our green fingered ladies planting more things this year. We have also had the pleasure of being given musical entertainment which is always very well received. As our numbers are so low we no longer invite speakers who are outside our community. We do however have two new members this year Any ladies who would like to join us will be made welcome.

Although our numbers are few we always have a happy Tuesday afternoon.

For more information speak to Gill or Vivian.

Women's Fellowship

Although few in number now, we continue to meet weekly on Thursday afternoons at Phyllis' home, and enjoy our fellowship together. We are grateful to those good friends who are willing to give a talk, always something stimulating, and we are good at sharing our own experiences with one another. We like to keep in touch with what's going on in the world around us, and support some of the charities we learn about through our meetings. We're a friendly, caring community, still keen to meet as long as we are able.