

## Thornham PCC Annual Report 2021

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 Rev. Kirsty Allan was licenced, but because of the Coronavirus Restrictions only essential clergy and Kirsty's close family were at the service but it was available for all to watch online. Over the last year both Kirsty and Rachael have been busy getting to know the people in the benefice and we have been grateful for their dedication.

At the beginning of the 2021, we were unable to have services in Church due to a second lockdown for coronavirus. Fortunately, restrictions were eased just before Easter and Easter Day marked our first full service of the year and 24 people attended of whom 20 were communicants. After Easter we had 2 services a month, Holy communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and Morning Prayer on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, this was alternated with Holme-next-sea. Our Christmas Eve service had a total of 68 attending with 30 communicants.

All services were held observing restrictions and precautions advised by the Government and Church of England. We signed into a register or the test and trace app on entering church. Masks were worn at all times, 2 meter distancing was observed, at communion the wine was initially taken by the clergy only but later the bread was dipped in the wine for communicants. Hand sanitiser was available around the church for regular use. These rules have now been relaxed.

We had 5 weddings, 1 Baptism, 2 Cremations and 3 Burial of Ashes.

The Vestry meeting and A.P.C.M. for 2021/22 was held in church in April 2022. At this Annual meeting one Churchwarden and the Secretary/Treasurer were elected. We have one other member of the P.C.C. The electoral Roll stands at 18. The P.C.C. has no representative on the Deanery Synod but shares the Representative from Holme Next Sea.

In March, as a result of Storm Eunice the face of the clock was damaged and it stopped working. This will be repaired at the end of May and will be paid by our insurance company.

The roof alarm sensor was repaired, and we have requested that the alarm box be repositioned on the ground floor for easier and safer access. We are still waiting for this to be carried out. For various reasons, some connected to the pandemic, the construction of the Bat boxes had been delayed until April but these are now installed on the outside of the church. We hope to get the Clerestory window cils also repaired in 2022.

It has been another difficult year with Coronavirus ever present with fluctuating levels of concern. Our clergy have been robust in their care for our safety and our spiritual care. They have joined together for morning prayer every day in the Benefice alternating between the 8 churches one week at a time. Since Easter services have been held in all 8 churches with the help of Revd. James Monro and retired clergy.

Fund Raising was restricted to one big event in June when we joined with the Village Hall committee to have a village Open Gardens. This was hugely popular with residents and visitors who were happy to spend the day looking around the gardens in the sunshine and fresh air. The church was busy all day serving Tea and Cakes in a Covid safe environment.

The Parish Share contribution for 2021, £7,016 was paid in full; our contribution for 2022 will be £8,760.

The Allotments continue to be well cared for and very productive and are a great success.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their grant of £2,750.00 towards the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard. This covered the cost of hiring a contractor to mow the grass, cut both yew hedges and also cut down some dead trees and branches in the churchyard avenue.

The few volunteers continue to keep the church clean and tidy but more help would be appreciated.