

All Saints' Church –Annual Report – 16 April 2012

Senior Warden: Adrian Catchpole; Rector's Warden: Margaret Quantrill. Joint Honorary Secretaries: Adrian and Katie Catchpole; Honorary Treasurer: Harriet Earle; Accounts Examiner:~ Peter Thubron.

During 2011 we held our usual fund-raising events: Auction of Promises, Summer Fete, Yachtsmen's Service on the beach, participation in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust annual cycle ride and a Harvest Gift Day. Supporters were kind despite the current economic situation and so many calls on their generosity. Our Remembrance Service was well attended, and our annual Carol Service as usual was very popular, and the church was beautifully decorated. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

Activities and Outreach Work included reciprocal Lenten evensong services with our three parishes, Brightwell, Old Martlesham and Martlesham Heath.

The Mothers' Union, Waldringfield, Newbourne and Hemley group continues to flourish, with much support from the Rector, led by Jean Haste. A Hunger Lunch held on Ash Wednesday raised funds for overseas work. 80 members attended, and this was followed by communion led by the Rector. An Archdeaconry event was held at St Michael's, Martlesham Heath, and a Healing Service attended at Whitton. An Annual Teddy Bears' Picnic is held for young mothers and toddlers from the three villages. Members offered their customary valued support at the annual fete.

The Church Craft Group meets on alternate Monday afternoons in the Church room, is open to all and led by Sheila Payne and Margaret Quantrill. £2 per session covers heating costs and contributes to group funds. Proceeds during the year have provided new carpet, and in past years, curtains and cushions (made by members) tables and some pew cushions for the church. £300 raised at the annual Open Day in December was donated to the St. Elizabeth Hospice.

The Church Room is helped by the congregation and particularly by the Craft Group. The rector does not charge fees, but users are asked to pay by meter for electricity and frequently offer a donation.

In February this year during Evensong we held a St Valentine's celebration of love and commitment. Before the service, we had bubbly and "wedding cake" in the church room, with a lovely display of wedding photographs and memorabilia, greatly enjoyed by all who attended. We were expecting a blessing for couples at the service but the Rector surprised us all by offering renewal of vows – some very touching moments.

Outreach Work. The Rector continues to offer complete support throughout the three parishes in our benefice to both church-goers and non church-goers alike. He also carries out extensive hospital, sick and support visiting in a wide area, including and beyond his own parishes and is in great demand for such support.

Funds we have contrived to keep expenditure to a minimum during the past year with no major items. Good housekeeping has paid off. Our regular and occasional donors are greatly appreciated – without them the situation would be very difficult indeed, probably untenable. As it is, our average monthly outgoings are approximately £1,500. Thank you to you all. We are also grateful to Waldringfield Parish Council for its grant of £500 which covers designated expenditure on churchyard maintenance.

We are indeed very fortunate in that our Rector, despite terminal ill health, is still carrying out his work in our parish and far beyond. Thanks seem inadequate and we all keep him constantly in our prayers.

Harriet Earle – Hon Treasurer