

All SAINTS' CHURCH WALDRINGFIELD

2012 Report to the Annual Parish Meeting - 11th April 2013

All Saints has seen a very mixed year. The PCC and congregation offer their heartfelt thanks to and prayers for the Reverend John Pretymann-Waller. Once again, during a very difficult year for him, he has supported us in terms of continuing to provide services despite singularly poor health. John has also continued to serve the wider community, as he has always done, and many individuals, both within the village and outside, have reason to be grateful for his personal support. We are also very grateful for the amazing efforts of Walter Aldis, Lay Reader, and Margaret Quantrill, Rector's Warden, in keeping things running.

In February we enjoyed a celebration of love and commitment for St Valentine's Day - a non-fundraising event to welcome the village to the church. We served wine and a wonderful "wedding cake" made by Jean Haste, and displayed a collection of wedding photographs and memorabilia loaned for the occasion. Evensong followed during which couples were welcomed by the rector for a special blessing.

Our fund-raising began in May with our customary Auction of Promises, always an enjoyable evening with wine and canapés. This has become our main fund raiser of the year, and we are grateful to all those who took part and contributed and donated in any way.

In July we held our traditional summer fete, although there are now several similar events being staged in and around the village. As ever, the cake and produce stall did a roaring trade!

In late August James and Rolls Barclay generously opened the gardens of Rivers Hall on a beautiful evening and hosted a wonderful barbecue with delicious food and wines on sale. Music was by Mick Chennell and his band and some lively dancing took place. Almost £2,000 was raised and we are indebted to James and Rolls for their generosity and to them and all their helpers for their work in making the evening such an outstanding success.

In late August and early September Noreen Cummings had the brilliant idea of serving cream teas in the Church Room at weekends. She and Daphne Glossop did all the baking and serving, and were rewarded by many visitors eager for tea, and wonderful takings.

September brought our annual Harvest Gift Day on which John enjoyed meeting the many visitors to the church on Saturday and to the Harvest Festival on Sunday. Thanks to all the ladies who once again provided such lovely decorations, and to all those who donated.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust organised its annual sponsored cycle ride, supported by the usual band of intrepid riders, with refreshment provided at various churches along their routes. Funds were disappointingly down this year. The Trust, as its name implies, exists to support Suffolk churches in their mammoth task to keep historic buildings going.

Christmas saw bumper attendances at the church which was beautifully decorated.

We have installed the Smartwater device at the church on the advice of our insurers, who now stipulate that claims for metal thefts or damage caused thereby will not be met unless this device is in place.

The Craft Group meets fortnightly and holds an open day in December with funds going to St Elizabeth Hospice. The Mothers' Union still maintains a good presence.

We are most grateful to all those who donate in large or small ways, both regularly and now and again. We rely on planned giving and are able to reclaim tax on most of this money.

We thank the Parish Council for its continued support by an annual grant which goes towards the maintenance of the churchyard. We are grateful to David Earle for his efforts, and also to John Nayler and David Cope for occasional work.