

Review of The Year

There were 4 PCC meetings held during the year (February, May, September and November) at the home of Sue and Bryan Fletcher. We thank them for their hospitality.

We have paid £3,500 towards our Parish Share this year.

We continued to join with the Gissing congregation on those Sundays designated as 'Home Team' and we have been pleased to welcome them to our services on occasions during the year.

The church was beautifully decorated for our Flower and Harvest Festival in September with a theme of books and food.

The Remembrance Sunday service was opened by Kevin Hegarty's playing of The Last Post and Reveille at St. Margaret's. The rector conducted an Act of Remembrance at St. Mary's attended by children from the school and with The Last Post and Reveille again played by Mr Hegarty.

Children from the school attended their Christingle Service at the church and a Carol Service by candlelight was well attended in December.

A weekday Morning Prayer is read in church.

A Prayer Request Box has been placed in the church, and is used occasionally.

Church Fabric and Ornaments

Minor repair works outlined in the quinquennial review have been completed. The parish council grant for churchyard maintenance was very gratefully received. Maurice Websdell has continued to maintain the churchyard to a high standard. We are extremely grateful for his devoted work.

The Friends of St. Mary's have maintained the churchyard to a high standard. Our thanks go to Mr David Baker for his continued help when electricity is needed in the church.

Overseas Links

We continued to support the Leprosy Mission by collecting stamps, and the Lent Giving jar. The proceeds of the Carols by Candlelight service were given to The Salvation Army for their work with the homeless and the collection proceeds of the sale of harvest produce and other donations were sent to Tear Fund.

Fundraising

The Flower Festival raised £358 for the General Fund and, despite a disappointing attendance, a Quiz Night in December raised £152 for the Restoration Fund.

Deanery Synod Meetings

There were two meetings in the year attended by our representative.

The PCC thank all those who contribute to the running and upkeep of the church, our organist, organ blower, and side person. Also those that clean and decorate the church with flowers, making it pleasant and inviting for worshippers and visitors throughout the year.