

Churchwardens' Report on year ending 31st December 2016

St. Mary, Worlingworth Church and Churchyard.

Security.

Security, especially the threat of thieves taking our lead roof, (several churches in Suffolk have been targeted) was and is, a constant concern for us. We have given the problem serious thought and consideration. In November we decided to apply for grants to assist us in installing an expensive alarm system.

The factors that led us to change our minds from the previous annual report were, peace of mind as the alarm systems are a deterrent, and we were perhaps too reliant on our good vigilant neighbours, when in fact that they are sometimes away. The height and steepness of the nave roof is an awkward factor for thieves, but our security/risk assessors considered that we have a low level point which should be covered by a sensor. As at 28th March 2017 our lead is fully covered by a system costing £3,634 plus VAT.

Neighbours are encouraged to park their cars in our driveways at night, to block access to the opportunist thieves getting their vehicles anywhere near the Church.

Health and safety had been and will continue to be a priority. Many thanks to Charles Plowman for being our Health and Safety Officer.

Quinquennial.

Mr. Tony Redman our architect carried out the quinquennial inspection in 2015. A full list is in the comprehensive report and the Churchwardens and PCC need to address these.

Mr. Redman retired in 2016 and is succeeded by Mr. Philip Orchard. Mr. Barry Hill is our contact at Whitworth and dealt with the September/October phase of the flushwork, which had to be abandoned before completion because of early frosts.

Churchyard maintenance

We invited quotes and offered a contract to three interested parties to cut the grass in 2015.

On evidence of the standard of work done locally, it was awarded to Matthew Hammond.

Matthew Hammond continued the contract on the same terms with the high standard of work as he did in 2015, for the whole of 2016.

Safeguarding.

Safeguarding of Children and vulnerable adults. The Church is very aware of the need to be vigilant.

Services.

We have tried to hold as many Services as possible, with the aim of three or four services per month.

This has been achieved with the help of our Lay Elders.

We alternate 9.30a.m. first Sunday of the month Holy Communion BCP, with Tannington. Where only six services were held during the year and we support each other very well.

We had 0 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 1 Funeral.

With these a total of 53 services held.

A good balance of Morning Prayer x 10, Evening Prayer x 1 Let's Celebrate x 5, Specials x 17 and Holy Communion x 17 services were held.

Format of MP and Holy Communion alternated BCP and CW. (Refer to Service report, attached).

We celebrated with the village on the occasion of the Community Centre loan being paid-off.

A lovely Celebration Service was held in the marquee on the playing field on the Sunday morning.

Our Harvest Festival service was held much later than normal in 2016, on October 9th due to clergy availability.

So, I think it has been another year when we have been open and offering a warm welcome to our visitors. A big thank you to you all for your help in the Mission and Ministry here among our Community.

In comparison to fellow Benefice parishes we were good at supporting Benefice services.

The Safari Supper was again by far, our most social and successful fund-raising event. Many thanks to Diana Totten for all the hard work and organization she put into the event. I would like to take this public opportunity to thank everyone for opening their houses and for preparing a course of the meal. Thank you, to the many people who support this fun evening as well.

The St. Mary's Guild, the ladies of our parish, have again served the Church most tirelessly and generously with fund-raising, flower arranging and brass cleaning throughout the year.

Two very successful jumble sales and the 'Christmas fayre' were held.

Worlingworth School held their end of term Christmas Concert in Church on 15th December 2016. It was very successful and great fun. Full to capacity and many people standing at the back! We look forward to welcoming them back in 2017.

Herbert D Stanford. Churchwarden.