

Church Report for Parish Meeting 2nd June 2021

During this year of pandemic, the PCC were faced with some real challenges. The first lockdown meant that our church was completely shut – no choice there. Then difficult decisions had to be made. We considered it vital to re-open for private prayer, but how to do that safely. When and how should we restart services.

Again after careful thought – should we or shouldn't we – we set up the produce table in the bus shelter. A series of reflections was sent to those who wanted during Lent: other bits and pieces via Caryl. We had a few minutes reflective silence in the churchyard at Remembrance. Managed to get in our Christmas celebration. All I can say is we did our best under challenging circumstances – and everything changed so often that honestly I can't remember what happened when now.

During this time the church has been used for 3 funerals, albeit adhering to restrictions which meant fewer attendees.

We lost a lot of income but managed to keep on top of our outgoings because of the reserves built up by the generosity of those who have gone before, some extra donations during the year and by those who have taken up the option of giving regularly through direct debit, for which we are very grateful.

Going forward, we possibly have two baptisms and a wedding in the pipeline. Great! The produce table is back. We are currently managing our churchyard to allow wildflowers to grow and encourage insects. It may look untidy if you are used to manicured lawns, but hopefully it will prove successful. Also we will have to look to rebuild and maintain a level of reserves to protect our future. So we are looking at introducing online giving, although the cheapest and best way of giving to support us is still by direct debit or bacs – ask me for the church bank details.

We would welcome your feedback on all we do. Tell us what we are doing right or wrong. And as always, we are tremendously grateful for our supporters, whether or not they are church attenders