

PARISH OF REDGRAVE cum BOTESDALE with the RICKINGHALLS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2017

Church services are held every Sunday in Redgrave or Botesdale, and Rickinghall. Some are Holy Communion services and others are more informal. **Messy Church**, at Botesdale, (an informal time for parents, carers, and children) meets monthly, along with '**Footprints**' (with a similar format) that meets in Rickinghall Village Hall. Services are also held in the redundant churches of St Mary's, Redgrave, and Rickinghall Superior. **Holy Communion services** continued at Albert Close and Farnish House. Details are in the Parish Magazine.

We offered prayer to anyone in need, eg. for healing, and difficult situations, and many have benefitted from this ministry through healing and the assurance that God has guided them and that Jesus has met them at their point of need. If you are interested in having prayer, please contact me, details below.

We are responsible for **St Mary's, Redgrave, churchyard**, and thank the Parish Council for its annual grants towards maintenance.

The Lent Course (in the weeks before Easter) was held with the Methodists in All Saints, Redgrave. The theme was 'Making Good Sense of the Bible Together'. We were also encouraged to bring each week an item for the Food Bank as part of our alms-giving in Lent.

"Thy Kingdom Come", an initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, was a call to pray for the nation in the week leading up to Pentecost. We prayed for our neighbourhoods and churches were open for prayer during the week of 9th – 14th May 2016.

The year was punctuated by celebrations and enjoyable meals. In June **the Queen's 90th birthday** was marked by a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in St Mary's, Rickinghall, and followed by a delicious strawberry tea. **Messy Church and Footprints** invited people to a **BBQ** in July at Rickinghall Village Hall. It was a relaxing and enjoyable time for those not involved in the hard work on the day.

We enjoyed the **Ceilidh** in Rickinghall Village Hall at Harvest time, and in December '**Carols on The Knoll**' in Redgrave with the Salvation Army band from Diss, was attended by villagers from all three villages, who enjoyed refreshments afterwards at All Saints, Redgrave.

The monthly **Men's Breakfast** at All Saints, Redgrave, is open to men in the villages. '**Headspace**' for women meets during term time and is a time for women, both connected and unconnected with Church, to enjoy themselves and chat and relax. Creche available.

The **Nativity Exhibition**, at St Mary's, Rickinghall, was popular. The Allotment

Group made an innovative Nativity scene out of vegetables and was voted the most popular exhibit.

We contributed to the **Waveney Food Bank** during the year. This is a project that is also supported by various churches in the area.

The Editorial group has been producing the **Parish Magazine** for over two years now and has done an excellent job providing an interesting and informative magazine.

The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal (Samaritan's Purse) raised shoeboxes for deserving individuals in various countries.

The **'Open the Book' team**, with members from our church, the Methodists and Parkview, went in to school twice a term and acted out Bible stories with a simple Christian message for the children. Other Ecumenical events include united services and the Good Friday walk.

We thank God for all He has done for us over the last year as we work to show His love.

If you would like to know more about our activities, please contact me on 01379 890204.

Frances Lamb - Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary