

**PARISH OF REDGRAVE cum BOTESDALE with the RICKINGHALLS  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2018**

**Church services** are held every Sunday in All Saints, Redgrave or the Chapel of Ease, Botesdale; and St Mary's, Rickinghall; and **Messy Church**, at Botesdale Village Hall, (an informal time for parents, carers, and children) meets monthly. Services are also held in the redundant church of St Mary's, Redgrave, and **Holy Communion services** continue at Farnish House. Details are in the Parish Magazine.

We offer prayer to anyone in need, e.g. 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 the churchyards of **St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior; St Mary's Rickinghall Superior; and St Mary's, Redgrave**, and thank the Parish Councils for their annual grants towards maintenance.

**The Lent Course**, in the weeks before Easter, was held with the Methodists and Parkview Chapel members, with the theme "Let the Scriptures Speak". We were also encouraged to bring an item each week 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 and our neighbourhoods in the week leading up to Pentecost.

Our '**Stepping into Harvest' Weekend** in October began with an 'Open the Book' session at St Botolph's School. On Saturday, at Botesdale Village Hall, the various craft workshops were well attended by both Church members and visitors, and the evening Ceilidh at Rickinghall Village Hall was a time of energetic dancing, talking and eating (as a Church we spend a lot of time sharing food!). We finished with our Harvest Celebration at Botesdale Village Hall on Sunday afternoon – again followed by refreshments.

**Messy Church** held a **BBQ** in July at Rickinghall Village Hall, and was a relaxing and enjoyable time, especially for those not working. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle. In December, we had '**Carols on The Knoll**' with the Salvation Army band from Diss. Villagers from all three villages came despite it being bitterly cold, and afterwards we thawed out with mulled wine and mince pies 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. A crêche is available.

The now annual **Nativity Exhibition** at St Mary's, Rickinghall, was popular, and this year the Brownies' exhibit was voted the most popular one.

We continued to contribute to the **Waveney Food Bank** during the year, as did various churches in the area. Sadly, the need for donations has increased over the years.

The Editorial team has been producing the **Parish Magazine** for over three years now and has done an excellent job. We now have a new Editor and new members of the team.

We, along with other churches and St Botolph's School, supported **The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal (Samaritan's Purse)** and gave filled shoeboxes for needy children abroad.

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

## **Appendix 6**

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*