

St Mary's Church Ashendon

The AGM was held on the 2nd April 2017 and many thanks go to Priscilla, Jenny, Peter Johnson and David Wallace for leading the services.

Many thanks also to Imogen and Felicity who have made tea, coffee, juice, cakes, biscuits, sweets and chocolate brownies so much part of the service. Most who attend services stay for quite some time afterwards having a chat and enjoying the spread that has been laid on. Also, we are delighted that we are having young readers at some services. This is something that we will be encouraging and many thanks to Georgina Ewers-Blue who has read at All Age Services.

There have been many happy occasions this year including two marriages, Elizabeth and Duncan and Fiona and David, and two baptisms, Hugo and Max. There have also been reflections and memories with the funerals of Andrew Tomlinson and Muriel Fountaine.

In January 2017 we experimented with the concept of a Messy Church, mostly held in the Village Hall and then on to the Church. About 15 children were involved, plus parents and helpers. Glitter and glue were much in evidence and the results of some of the activities can be seen on the South East window of the Church. It was such a great success we will be looking to organise this again.

Looking forward, apart from some repairs to the floor, we are moving with the times. We shall be investigating the installation of a screen which can be pivoted out from the chancel wall and a projector which can be linked with the hymnal or used independently. We are looking to install broadband and have given a donation to Connecting Ashendon CIC to have superfast broadband

installed in the village. We will also look to see what can be done with the now redundant pipe organ.

Last year we asked for more members of the PCC and we are delighted that Richard and Vanessa Bates have agreed to join.

The members of the PCC are now Peter Smettem, Churchwarden and Lay Chair, Imogen Holbrook, Churchwarden, Kevin Nash, Treasurer, Peter Johnson, Secretary and Gift Aid Co-ordinator, Felicity Smettem, Vanessa Bates and Richard Bates.

It costs just over £9,000 per year to keep the Church going, excluding repairs and we are pleased to report that we are continuing to receive sufficient funds to ensure that we have a small surplus at the end of the year. In particular thanks go to Liv Rand, who again obtained £350 from Vodafone as part of their charitable giving and the Red Lion Social Club, who, apart from giving us one third of the Christmas Auction proceeds, made the Church their nominated charity for the progressive supper, so we were able to purchase new hymn books. The accounts show a balance of £40,555 at the year end.

As always very many thanks to those who dedicate their time and effort in keeping the Church opened and maintained.

For Cleaning and Flowers Pam Rand, Shirley Rand, Sian Miller, Juliette Harbottle, Louis Harbottle, Jan Pike, Geoff Pimm, Ruth Pimm, Margaret Lloyd, Carol Smith, Kym Rabone, Liz Johnson, Gill Walker, Niamh Cummings, Michael Rand, Susan Rand, Peggy Binfield, Vanessa Bates, Felicity Smettem, Katy Jamieson, Luke Jamieson, Vicky Ewers-Blue, Imogen Holbrook, Suzie Crwys-Williams, Richard Bates and Peter Smettem.

For Opening and Locking the Church Imogen Holbrook and Felicity Smettem.

For organising the front Churchyard Mowing Peter Smettem

For Organising the bottom Churchyard Mowing Paul Horwood

For Mowing the Churchyard Peter Johnson, David Crwys-Williams, Richard Bates, Robert Smith, Geoff Pimm, Richard Phillips, Peter Smettem, Paul Horwood, Ashley Holbrook, Richard Lewin, Kelvin White, and Gill Walker.

For Hedge Cutting Richard Bates. Peter Smettem and Peter Johnson

For storing the Churchyard Mower Molly Boughton

For Playing the organ over Christmas Thomas Johnson

For compiling the Bernwode News Richard Lewin

For collecting the Bernwode News annual subscription and delivering the Bernwode News Kevin and Mary Nash

For preparing the Altar for Holy Communion Imogen Holbrook and Felicity Smettem

For cleaning the brass Liz Johnson and Felicity Smettem

For producing the Christingles Kym Rabone and family

For organising the Church Bazaar Pam and Shirley Rand

For organising, preparing and helping on the night for the Harvest Supper Felicity Smettem, Sarah Chester, Vanessa Bates, Vicky Ewers-Blue, Suzie Crwys-Williams, Fiona Jacob, Clare Cook, Peter Johnson, Liz Johnson, Peter Smettem, Lesley Whitehall, Kerry Yates, Freddie Holbrook and Harry Theobald.

For Refreshments after the Services Imogen Holbrook, Kerry Yates
Amber Yates, Sarah Chester and Felicity Smettem

For Administrative duties Kevin Nash as Treasurer, Peter Johnson
as PCC Secretary and Gift Aid Secretary, Imogen Holbrook as
Churchwarden and Roger Pike for circulating service details.

Many thanks to the Red Lion Social Club who once again donated a
third of the Auction Proceeds to St Mary's.

Peter Smettem and
Imogen Holbrook