

Report

Although the pandemic meant that services at the start of the year did not go ahead, things were able to return much more to normal in the second half of the year.

Regular services took place on the fourth Sunday of each month. The Ascension Service was able to go ahead in May, as did the Benefice Service in August, which included the Baptism of Harry Joslin. There was a Harvest Festival service on 10th September where the church was beautifully decorated in autumn colours and a magnificent collection of vegetables. This was made even more special as the baptism of Elise Klass took place during the service. Thanks are due to all who assisted in the decorations with special thanks to Mary Coulson (who regularly decorates our Church with flowers) and Hilary Castleden. A Remembrance Service was held at 6pm on Sunday 14th November. There was a carol service on 23rd December which ended up being very chilly as it took place outside. There was also a fabulous 'Live Nativity' on Christmas Eve at Standwell Farm with donkeys, sheep and real-life baby Jesus. Over 100 people attended the event. A huge thanks to Barbara for her organization, to Sue Roberts for her fabulous costumes and to Peter Saunders for allowing the event to take place at his farmyard. Online services were streamed from Wingfield for members of the Parish.

Paul and Philip Chenery have carried out general maintenance of the churchyard. Paul cuts the grass and Philip maintains the drainage ditch and clears the gutters. The PCC would like to thank them for all of their continued hard work as well as Ford Farms for the use of their machinery.

A huge thanks should go to Hilary Castleden who has worked with the architect Matthew Thomas and builder Lee Hurrell to complete the much needed refurbishment of the church:

Work started on 4th October removing the crumbling render on the outside of the south wall and applying the first layer of the new lime plaster. We were able to use all of the church for Harvest Festival on 10th October but then moved the altar down the step to the nave for subsequent services.

In brief, the work completed is as follows.

Gutters and downpipes were removed, repainted dark olive green and refixed.

Tiles refixed and gable timberwork replaced.

Vestry coping and iron cross overhauled.

Chancel/nave south buttress cracks against wall infilled and repointed

The exterior of the south wall was newly rendered

Inside the cracks in the north and south walls proved to be extensive requiring stainless steel reinforcement bars as did the easterly window in the south wall.

As the quote for this work was less than expected there was enough in hand for the application of four coats of limewash to the restored interior walls.

Many thanks to Barbara Irwin for ensuring that the curtains and altar cloths were freshly cleaned.

The church is now fully open again with Sunday services once a month.

Helen Joslin
PCC Secretary