

St Martin's Church, Nacton

Activities and Occurrences in 2018/19

This has been an almost typical year for the St Martin's congregation, with one big exception!

We had a quiet Summer and Autumn generally with a joyous welcome at the start of July when an evening service was held to welcome the new Benefice Curate, Reverend Sarah Jenkins. Lots of members from the other seven parishes joined us in celebration.

Our next change from our usual 8am Holy Communion and 10am Morning Prayer or All Age Worship was the Harvest Festival service, followed by the now-traditional light lunch shared in church afterwards.

The November Coffee Morning followed, and Christmas celebrations began with Carols by Candlelight, then the Crib Service for young and old of the wider congregation and Holy Communion on Christmas morning.

2019 began with the January Soup and Sweet, mixing fund-raising with pleasant socialising for many. Many congregation members are remembering again how blessed we are by following the Lent Kagera challenge, making donations as we realise the many benefits of our life here in Suffolk. Throughout Lent the Benefice is having Evensong on a Sunday in each of the eight parishes. This meant a rare occurrence for St Martin's on March 31st, with three services on the same day - at 8am, 10am and 6.30pm.

Both schools within the parish continue to support St Martin's. Orwell Park School have their regular early-morning service each Thursday and many other services through their year, whilst members of the Ministry Team visit Nacton CEV Primary School each week and each term the children and staff members process up to the church for a service, awaited by parents and friends.

Members of the PCC, and other congregation members regularly in and out of church, have been busy with their Safeguarding training, and our organiser, Mary Liggett, has been receiving certificates of achievement by the armful. Many thanks to her for organising and chivvying us so gently but firmly. This is an important feature of modern life, knowing what to do, how to manage when confronted with other people's important concerns, worries and problems.

There has also been a Faculty Application by the PCC to the Diocese for use of an area inside the east /front wall for future cremation ashes internment and plaques and installation of a firmer pathway alongside from near the front gate towards the composting area, for easier access to the area most regularly used for interments at present

Looking ahead

The biennial Open Gardens, jointly in support of St Martin's church and the St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich, will be on 11th/12th May and the triennial Christmas Tree festival at the start of December, for St Martin's funds, are always happy occasions (with a mass of planning and busy-ness long beforehand!) and we look forward to many visitors having a joyous time at both.

The Big Event for the Benefice is in June. On Saturday 29th our Curate will join many others in St Edmunds Cathedral to be ordained to priesthood and on Sunday 30th she will lead members of the Benefice congregations in her first service of Holy Communion at Kirton.

Judith Wyndham
Church Warden