

Bacton Benefice with Wyverstone, Cotton and Old Newton, Wickham Skeith and Gipping

Children and Schools

Schools: Old Newton C of E Primary
 'Family at Church' approach to be used at Old Newton
 Bacton Community Primary –A focus on future engagement with this community primary.
 The church will be ready to respond to the needs of these schools, particularly during the Covid pandemic

Charities and the Food Bank

Funds and donations obtained from a variety of sources:
 Church funds /local council /Covid Council /private donation
 Over £6,000 raised
 Bacton Village Charity (Vicar is Chair) £1000 donated by council and church to buy books for children during lockdown and to aid homeschooling.
 Foodbank established a few weeks into lockdown. 'Baskets for our Benefice.' resulted in huge numbers of donations.
 Requests for support received via a range of methods, eg Suffolk County Council via National Helpline /Facebook Messenger: Grants provided to local families identified due to job losses or furlough resulting in at least 20% reduction in income. Support provided without singling out individual family situations: Food vouchers, support with electricity bills, school bus fees.
 The severity of the situation mobilised support from within the church congregation intuitively to outsiders the work of Jesus. Popular with benefactors as they can see how their money is used and the good uses it is put towards.



Community and Families

A zoom gathering with families/children from the benefice. A new online 'Christianity for Beginner's Course' launched on zoom.

'Family@Church'

All-age worship – telling the gospel via the church year/calendar. This model used in many churches/benefices in Suffolk, Oxford and Liverpool dioceses.

'Drive-In Church'

Innovative approach to worship during lockdown.
 Large congregation - risk carefully assessed.
 Attendance: 70 cars resulted in £800 collection
 A 'worship bag' provided for all participants including: order of service /Haribo sweets /tea light & battery (a sign that 'Jesus is here') is lit as they leave 'Taking light into the world.'

Online Services and Gatherings

Seizing an opportunity for mission: "Covid has allowed church to carry on while football and yoga etc have had to stop!" (Rev'd Carl Melville)
 Use of Facebook to provide online worship during lockdown. A response to Covid but will continue into the future. The use of technology continues to evolve. 50 regular views, up to 500 views have been logged. Drive-In church broadcast on Facebook - 2,000 hits logged.
 Video resources have been developed, eg 'What happens when you enter a church building' and 'What happens in Baptism.'
 Quality of resources is paramount

Contact Revd Carl Melville at carlmelville@hotmail.com if you would like to know more about what we do and how we developed this work