

All Saints West Haddon

Churchwardens' Report 2019

Looking back to 2019 it all seems very normal. One highlight was the visit of Bishop John who held a confirmation service here in West Haddon. We met for worship each Sunday morning and we are grateful to our ministry team who led our services: Revd. Graham Collingridge, Mr Richard Southey, Mrs Judith Leach. On two Sundays each month Mr Dennis Orcherton accompanied our singing on the organ. At other times we used CDs or a music machine. We are lucky to have a small but dedicated choir who lead our singing.

The church continued to look good as it benefitted from the work of all those who cleaned and polished each month. The flowers on the two altars as well as in other places for our Festivals made it look special. Sides people welcomed our congregation to church. Readers and Intercessors all played their part in our worship and afterwards we have enjoyed coffee and biscuits. Thank you to all those who provided outreach at Tea at Three and Saturday morning get togethers. Nicky showed the friendly face of the church in her regular Tuesday morning slots; she and Joe as well as Sandy and Sue have served coffee to the parents before school assemblies as well as giving the pre-school attenders a story and an activity following the theme of the month. A small prayer group has met regularly to bring the needs of the parish before our God.

All who come to visit the Church admire our well-kept churchyard, we are grateful to Messieurs Tony Facer and Bill Nash as well as to Mike and Delia who make the approach to church so colourful and attractive

There have been special events, some for the purpose of fund raising, like the Fete and the sponsored cycle ride. On other occasions we have supported other organisations, like the Parish Council by providing burgers and hot dogs at the Firework Display. We take part in the village Wassail by putting on a very successful Christmas Tree Festival. Some members of the church went to Hollowell to help at the Steam Engine Rally and a bar was run for the Hayley Sisters.

Lent lunches gave an opportunity for us to meet together and to raise money for CMS. We gave half of the collection at the Crib service to the charity Embrace which works to tackle poverty and fight injustices in the Middle East. The school has contributed largely to our collection for the Rugby Food Bank and many from the village brought gifts for mothers and children who have fled violence and found a home in the Women's Refuge in Northampton.

Extra-ordinary needs of us all are met by those who serve on the pastoral, fund-raising, fabric and finance committees. We are grateful to those who contribute their special gifts in this way. We have bought 30 more Bibles to supplement the ones we have so that all members of the congregation can have access to one in our services. Funding for this was given by Mr. John Menson, a former member of our congregation who was visiting us from his home in America. There were a number of All Age services. We have produced a Welcome leaflet for people new to church. Members of the congregation were pleased to lead "Open the Book" assemblies at school. Mary and Joseph paid a visit to the school as well as homes in the village in the season of Advent.

The Health and Safety and Fire policies have been brought up to date and a risk assessment tool for large gatherings in church has been produced. An accessibility audit was carried out and we identified several areas where accessibility is difficult. However, we are limited in how we can improve this because of the nature of the building. We have publicised the hearing loop system by displaying a poster and we will re-visit other areas when we are able to do so. We are always grateful for the work of our Treasurer who pays in our money to the Bank, then pays it out again to meet our commitments.

Sue Tringham and Julie Morgan

23rd June 2020