

St Edmunds Church Thurne - PCC Report May 2022

Unfortunately, services continued to be suspended due to the continuing Government restrictions from May 2021 onwards. Services were started again on 26 September 2021 with the Harvest Festival followed by monthly Holy Communion services. An Act of Remembrance was held in November starting at the memorial and concluding in the church. Special services were held on Advent Sunday, Christmas Eve, Candlemas and Tenebrae (Easter Saturday).

The funerals of Joan Lamb and Christine Shreeve, two long term residents of Thurne who had over the years contributed much to village life, were held in the Autumn with interment in the cemetery.

The churchyard and cemetery continue to be maintained by Robert Parker and David Bradnock and our thanks go to them and to the Parish Council for their financial support. Jonathan Molineux led a village effort to remove a large tree that came down in the strong winds - miraculously there was no damage to any gravestones.

There are five names on the Electoral Roll. The church has been kept open daily throughout the year for the benefit of local people as well as visitors. There have been some encouraging comments about the church being peaceful as well as a beautiful place.

The recent major restoration of the church has kept maintenance costs to a minimum although significant damage to part of the thatch was caused by the wind in recent storms - the full cost will not be met by the insurers. In line with the CoE policies, a quinquennial electrical inspection was carried out but no major faults were found.

The Parish Share of £3,000 due to the Diocese has been paid but this as for the past four years has had to come from the PCC reserves.

Fund raising has been severely restricted by the Pandemic but thanks must go to Ann Lamb and Jenny Davies along with the Archive Group for providing maps for sale - we are very much indebted to them. Ann Lamb also raised funds through sales of tea towels (which she designed incorporating a map of Thurne) - these turned out to be very popular sold through the Ramblers shop. Ann's plant sales also raised further funds. We were also thankful to receive other donations.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Marcella Olive for all her efforts and the work done as the previous Churchwarden in ensuring St Edmunds Church remained open and available for the village and visitors.

The intention is to resume fund raising activities for the church in the coming months - details will be posted on the village noticeboard and church website (<https://www.marthamchurches.org.uk/parish-churches/st-edmund-thurne/>) on both of which details of all services throughout the Benefice are posted on a weekly basis.

Carol Delf
Churchwarden & PCC Treasurer
4 May 2022