

# All Saint's Church, Great Ashfield

## Review of the year 2024

The PCC met 4 times during the year and the attendance was 100% of members. 4 candidates from the Benefice were confirmed in November by Bishop Tim Stevens at Barnham.

The pattern of services remained the same during the year and the church was open daily for private prayer. The benefice Family@Church continued on the first Sunday of the month at Pakenham. We are grateful for the continued support of our Reader Di Barker and Elder Raymond Mayhew. Special services were held for CMS and Sea Sunday. Many thanks to all our organists in the benefice, Margaret Salmon, Elizabeth Moore and Jim Thompson who have continued to enhance our services with music when they can.

TOAST community breakfast continued to attract good numbers and be an important meeting place for the village. Thanks to all those that make this happen.

Festival services were well attended as was the Remembrance service in November. Memorial services were held in the benefice in November and were much appreciated.

Thanks to all who regularly locked and unlocked the church, and to all those who regularly cleaned the church and arranged flowers to make the church so welcoming for our services and daily visitors. We and to all those who regularly cleaned the church and arranged flowers to make the church so welcoming for our services and daily visitors.

We continue to welcome many visitors from the USA who come to see the memorial in the church to the 385th Bombardment Group.

This year we have had our Quinquennial Inspection which highlighted £15K of repairs that need to be done in the next five years and at the moment seem very manageable.

We have been graced this year with two excellent Legacies left to the church, from John Thompson and Paul Steinly estates of £28K total. It has been agreed to use this towards the redecoration of the nave and side aisle.

The churchyard has been maintained to our own high standard thanks to J Miles and Sons for all their work.

Throughout the year there were several fundraising events, all shared with the Village Hall. and which were very successful in terms of raising funds and being well-attended, bringing the community together. These events were a Plant and Yard sale in May, Open Garden at the Limes in July, a talk at the Village Hall on the 385th Bombardment Group, and a Blues Brothers Tribute Band Concert in September also held in the Village Hall.

Ministry to Norton school flourished with a School Eucharist held in July in St Andrew's Norton, weekly visits of the Open the Book team, collective worship led by the Rector, plus the Rector's input as Governor and leading class visits. Mrs Di Barker and the Rector led monthly Songs of Praise and Communion services at Stowlangtoft Nursing Home and we are grateful to Elizabeth Moore for providing the music.

Craft packs were produced and distributed to children in the benefice at Easter and Christmas funded by a grant from the Diocese Growth Fund along with Christmas gift bags to the elderly.

The Suffolk Historic Churches trust 'Ride & Stride' took place in September and thanks to everyone who walked, cycled or stewarded the event.

The Village & Church News was a valuable asset throughout the year with thanks to all who are involved in publication and distribution.

The Church paid £11110 towards the 2024 Parish Share (£2222 paid in January 2025) Parish Giving goes from strength to strength and we thank everyone who participates in the scheme. With the gift aid being claimed back this cleared £5500. Joint fund raising with the village hall raised over £3000 for the church fabric.

Also during the year we have raised over £1200 from different events for local charities.