

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT 2019

The churches in our Parish are All Saints, Redgrave; the Chapel of Ease (St Botolph's), Botesdale; and St Mary's, Rickingham, and we have services in one of the churches every Sunday. In August, after praying and asking God what He wanted us to do, we changed our pattern of services to make the best use of our buildings, some of which can be very cold in winter. The 8.15am BCP Holy Communion has moved to 9.15am with refreshments served afterwards and before the 10.30am service. We also have 10.30am services with refreshments afterwards, and we have a monthly service of Evening Prayer. This will be reviewed during 2019. Messy Church is still at the Botesdale Village Hall on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10.30am, and families are very welcome. There are also two weekday services of Holy Communion once a month, one at St Mary's, Rickingham, and the other at Farnish House. Details are on the back page of the Parish Magazine.

We enjoyed the Church BBQ at Rickingham Village Hall in July, and celebrated Harvest with the Men's Breakfast at Star Wing Brewery, and our Harvest Service on the Sunday morning in a marquee at the Brewery in the open air, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch. The Nativity Exhibition in St Mary's, Rickingham, in December, was popular and was followed by a Carol Service in church with refreshments afterwards. We seem to spend quite a lot of time enjoying refreshments! At the Carol Service, we had a choir made up of local singers, who sang beautifully.

At the beginning of December, the Salvation Army Band from Diss joined us on The Knoll, Redgrave, to sing Christmas carols and, although it was extremely chilly, there was a good crowd there. More refreshments enabled us to warm up at All Saints, or the Cross Keys Pub. The Christingle Service was held in the Chapel of Ease, Botesdale, and was a time to worship almost by candlelight.

The Men's Breakfast at All Saints, Redgrave, to which men are invited, continues on the 3rd Saturday of the month, and 'Headspace for women', a weekly coffee morning and chat, is also at All Saints. Details of these activities are in the Parish Magazine.

We welcome newcomers to our services, and would be delighted to pray with anyone in need of help. Just contact the Rector, Revd Chris Norburn.

We have regular united services with the Methodists and those at Parkview Chapel, and we all support the Food Bank.

We thank the Parish Councils for their annual grants for grass cutting at the various Churches, including the redundant churches of St Mary's Redgrave and St Mary's, Rickingham Superior. We also thank all those who volunteer to keep the churchyards tidy.

Frances Lamb, PCC Secretary