

ST MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

2023

It has been another very busy year in the Parish Church

We have continued to have Zoom services on Sundays and Wednesday mornings even after the lifting of restrictions enabled us to attend services, this has allowed the vulnerable or housebound to be part of the services remotely.

The Mast was installed on the church tower enabling us to have internet access. This installation has enabled easier use of electronic equipment. We have also now been able to have a card payment machine in the Church.

We get many compliments on the appearance of the Churchyard, thanks go to Dick Sowerby and Trevor Hamlyn for their hard work. We have had the hedges tidied this year by Trevor which has improved the whole look of the Churchyard.

As many will have noticed we have eventually been able to purchase and site just past the tower after gaining permission from the Diocese, English Heritage and Historic Buildings a disabled Portaloo.

We have also done repairs to the church path and tidied up the main gateway where the access was very uneven outside the gate. We have recently had the wall in the kitchen painted to stop the flaking of the limewash. We have been able to purchase some items for the kitchen thanks to a grant. This has made things much more pleasant to work in. Everyone agrees the Church is looking very cared for and tidy.

The library attracts many regular readers and comments are made on the tidiness and regular replacing of the books with sometimes

very new books that have been left for our library. This is free to all and does not require the books to be returned.

We have had many varied events in the church including –

Day of Reflection for Ukraine

Callington Community Gospel Choir.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Service, with a Flower Display supported by business and village groups.

Church Open Day with a buffet lunch.

September 8th Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, which allowed the Church to place a Village Condolence Book on display for all to sign from her death to the Funeral.

Revel a joyous occasion enjoyed by all.

Johnny Cowling entertaining all.

The Countrymen in Concert.

Coffee Mornings.

Mulled Wine.

Some of the Jubilee trees donated to replace trees that had fallen or died on the church hedge.

The Annual Crib Service returned after the Covid break and was enjoyed by all who took part with a full church.

Plus, many more shared moments.

Without the many who give of their time and effort we would not have such a welcoming, clean and comfortable church to use not only for regular worship by many varied events.

Linda Cobbedick PCC Secretary