

Parish Council AGM Church report 2023

During 2022, we were at last able to get back to our pre-pandemic pattern of a service every Sunday and holding all of our festival services, which was great; notably our Carol Service of nine lessons and carols, with mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards. An enjoyable village event. The church remains open every day for private prayer and contemplation. (Although sadly since having two thefts in the last month, we have been a bit nervous about this.)

The church porch has been decorated for various church festivals by crafts made by children and village societies, particularly Remembrance, Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

For the first time since 2019, fundraising activities were carried out throughout the whole year and included coffee mornings, a cowslip cream tea and an in-person Harvest lunch in the Village Hall. In June, a Wedding Exhibition Day was organised in the church, with parishioners' wedding dresses on display, covering many decades. It was a day enjoyed by all, with teas served outside in the sunshine. A Christmas Market at the end of November was also a very successful day. Food was collected at Harvest time and taken to FIND (Families in Need) foodbank. A food collection box remains at the back of the church throughout the year, the contents of which are donated to FIND periodically. As with most charities, we are struggling to meet our costs and so are very grateful for the support that we receive from the village.

In 2023, our main fundraising event will be an open-air concert by The East of England Co-op Band on Saturday 15th July. Tickets are available now.

2022, though, proved to be a sad time in Burstall with the loss of several well loved and respected members of the church family and wider community. We especially miss Joan Eagle and John Minchin who were both involved in many village activities, as well as church.

The Rev Canon Annette Shannon left the Benefice at the end of August 2022, for pastures new. The Benefice is currently being reorganised, with four parishes instead of six and is hoping to interview for a new part-time Priest-in-Charge at the end of June.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for continuing to cover the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard. Thanks to everyone in the village who continues to support the church with flower arranging, decorating the church and porch, cleaning and those who come to our fundraising events.