

## **Hethel All Saints Parochial Church Council and Parish Report – 2024**

During 2024 Hethel Church held its usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday benefice communion service each month. Other services which Hethel traditionally holds were Plough Sunday, a Good Friday Meditative Service, Beating the Bounds in May and Remembering Loved ones in November. In addition to these in November our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday service coincided with Remembrance Sunday, and we held an Advent Service of light at the beginning of December. It was our turn to hold the Christmas Day service which we alternate with Bracon Ash Church, while they held the Easter Service this year. We also had one wedding in August.

Other events we held during the year were tea and crumpets in the afternoons once a month during January, February and March and Cream Tea Sundays on 6 consecutive Sundays between the end of July and beginning of September. These afternoons are now an important part of our fundraising efforts and provide opportunity for community engagement too. We held a choir concert in March alongside the tea and crumpet afternoon. For this event we borrowed the Mulbarton 'Sum Up' machine for the first time to take digital payments via wi-fi for the tickets. We held a Bat Walk as part of the Love your Burial Ground and Churches Count on Nature week in June.

Our wildlife churchyard was again cut in the Autumn with the help of Wymondham Nature Group (Wyng). We are most grateful for their help with this, and it is an important part of our complying with Eco Church standards which we continue to keep in mind for all our church activities.

The PCC met six times during 2024 and voted on the following formal resolutions which were all unanimously agreed:

- To accept independently examined financial accounts and accompanying report and the Parish Report
- To accept an amendment to the Mulbarton Group Equality Policy as an interim measure until a full policy review in 2025.
- We agreed to adopt a Maintenance Plan.
- A resolution was agreed to permit upright memorials for the interment of ashes at the Rectors discretion.
- We voted to ask our Architect to instruct builders and bell hangers to start work on the tower building works.
- We voted to accept increase of £130 (3%) in the Benefice Share for 2025

Peter Nicholls decided to step back from his role as Churchwarden at the May APCM, after many years of service, for which we are extremely grateful. He will continue in the Treasurer role and to oversee the Tower and Bell renovation project. As there were no candidates for the churchwarden role the PCC considered how to redistribute the work undertaken by Peter. Members have taken on small extra roles to help cover the gap.

During the year a faculty was granted with List B approval, for the tower refurbishment project and our Treasurer, Peter Nicholls worked diligently to make numerous grant applications to help us fund the project. Much time and hard work is required to put these applications together for which the PCC is extremely thankful.

The appearance of a new fingerpost showing the route of the public footpath through the churchyard and continuing through the garden of King Johns Thorn Cottages caused us to consider the rerouting of the path along the line of its traditional use by the public. Peter & Cathy Nicholls decided to take this up with the County Council about this as it is their garden the public footpath goes through.

In wider church matters, after a prolonged period of uncertainty the Humbleyard Deanery has been dissolved and Hethel as part of the Mulbarton Benefice are now part of the Depwade Deanery.

Alice Lince our safeguarding Officer attended more than the minimum of 2 PCC meetings throughout the year. Our Safeguarding training and policies have now become more co-ordinated and embedded in our normal day to day thinking and we have complied with our duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

The Electoral roll numbers remained at 9 members, the same level as last year.