

ST MARY'S, NEDGING

2018 was an interesting year for the church and its members following the retirement of Rev Law and our failure to recruit her replacement. We are very lucky that Rev Sephton and her husband Jim have committed themselves to our benefice and are taking services virtually every week. We are also very grateful to the other retired clergy, Readers and Elders who are taking services for us and have enabled the benefice to continue with the same service pattern as it had before. Jim Sephton has now begun Reader training. We have lost one organist in the benefice, Marie Bull, but have gained another, Nigel Alcock.

Nedging church saw 24 services throughout the year including Easter, Rogation, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday (with the new Remembrance Cross), the Carol Service and Midnight Mass. We hosted 2 Benefice Services. Church attendance throughout the year averaged 19. The best-attended service of the year, apart from the three weddings held in the church, was the Easter Service with 49 and the smallest congregation was 6 at a 9.30 Holy Communion.

We held 4 PCC meetings in 2018 and ran two fund raising events: the very successful Vintage Fete at Nedging Hall in June and the Bazaar in November. The 2018 Lent Lunch was at Mrs Willingale's and raised £100 for St Elizabeth Hospice; the 2019 lunch was at Mrs Buckle's and raised a similar amount for Success After Stroke. Grateful thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make these events a success, especially the Gooderham family. Thanks also to everyone who helps with grass cutting, flower arranging, church cleaning etc. We were devastated that Judy Cooper who did the church cleaning for us died so suddenly in March.

We are all delighted that Roundabout has been revived and are grateful to those who distribute it in the parish - especially now that it is going to every home and not just those who pay for it! Their workload has increased dramatically.

We continue to hope that a new incumbent will be found for our benefice soon. The good news is that the Bishop has indicated that a house can be bought in the benefice which we hope will make the job more attractive.