

ST MARY'S, NEDGING

2020 was a strange year for the church as well as for everyone else. Our new Rector, Revd. Cattermole had only been with us since September 2019 and then the churches closed down in March 2020. It is a bonus for us that the church bought a house in Crowcroft Road for Elke. We haven't had an incumbent living in the village since Revd. Bell in the early 1970's! The low point of the year was the devastating loss of our churchwarden, Gill Buckle, in September. She is greatly missed on many levels.

Nedging hosted 5 services before all churches were closed in March and services were moved online, either recorded or by Zoom. Attendance averaged 11. We then had one service in September attended by 24 people before our delayed APCM in October. Since then we had just 3 services for the remainder of 2020: our Harvest Festival in October with 19 people in attendance, an Evening Prayer in December with 15 and a Holy Communion on Christmas Day attended by just 5 people. We have had just two so far in 2021: a Holy Communion in April attended by 25 people and another in May also with 25 in attendance. We have a Morning Prayer this Sunday at 11.00am. Revd. Cattermole did one of the online services from Nedging in November. Mrs Buckle's funeral took place in the churchyard and there had also been one marriage in the church in May 2021 attended by 6 people.

The PCC met normally at Nedging Hall in February 2020 and then again in the garage at Bush Farm in July 2020 before the 2019 APCM took place in the church in October 2020. We have held Zoom PCC meetings in January and March 2021 and we had our APCM in the church in early May.

The visitors book had to be put away during the pandemic so it is hard to know how many visitors we have had. 7 people had visited the church from as far as Dorset before the church was closed. Since then most of the names are of people from the parish coming to the church to clean it, do the flowers, and to pray.

All fund raising events for 2020 had to be cancelled and we are not planning to hold the Vintage Fete in 2021 but it is hoped that the Christmas Bazaar can go ahead as usual in November. Grateful thanks to all who have kept the church going during this last difficult year.