

## ST MARYS CHURCH, NEDGING

### ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2017

2016 was a challenging year for the church and its members with the arrest of the Rural Dean in August and then our Senior Church Warden being taken ill towards the end of the year. The church saw 23 services including Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service. We hosted 3 Benefice Services. There was one Service of Thanksgiving for Joe Fearnley attended by approx. 150 people (standing room only) and two burials of ashes in 2016. Church attendance throughout the year averaged 18 but when the Special and benefice services are excluded this falls to 10. The best attended service of the year, apart from Joe's, was The Carol Service with 60 (up from 53). I am again unable to report how many people visited the church as our Visitors Book was vandalised for the second time and has had all the completed pages removed from it. We also discovered after the initial vandalism that we had had some pages removed from the Bible, so we can no longer keep it out on display, which is regrettable. Financially we had made a small loss of £203 but we had building works to pay for this year which improves the picture considerably. We still have work to do in the church - to windows, the font and the memorials.

There were four meetings of the PCC in 2016 and we have had one so far in February 2017. The main topics of the PCC meetings had been plans for the future of the deanery, services, fabric and fund raising. The parish had been represented at all the Deanery Synod meetings, the Pit Stop meeting in Hadleigh, and had played a part in the Deanery Service led by our Benefice in Hadleigh. Benefice Treasurers and Church Wardens had also had joint and separate meetings during the year. We survived an Inspection by the Acting Rural Dean and as a result of it our register book has now been deposited in Bury St Edmunds.

We held three fund raising events: the Vintage Fete at Nedging Hall in June, the Christmas Bazaar in November and the Wreath Making in December. Grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to make these events such a success and to those who came along to support them. Our main fund raiser for 2017 will be a Race Night in Whatfield Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October.