

St Mary's Church report

This past year has been very quiet for our Church, we were not able to have Harvest Festival or the Carol service. We hope we will be able to celebrate both of these festivals later this year. During lockdown the Church was made safe by soft furnishings, hymn books etc being stored in the Old School room.

Part of the Church was cordoned off and sanitiser etc put in place. One of our requirements for people visiting was to leave their name and a contact number. From this information we have been able to see how many people have visited our Church on a Sunday afternoon. We open the Church from 2-4 pm.

Our flower ladies decorated the Church beautifully for Easter and Christmas. This year 2021 we were able to have our display of lilies in memory of friends and family again.

During lockdown we have had a very successful zoom service on a Sunday and twice during the week. It is for everyone and incorporates music, prayers, readings and reflection. From April 2021, physical services began again. We cannot sing hymns in church but enjoy the organ music at the beginning and end of our services.

In April we had a very positive gardening morning, huge amounts were achieved by a group of volunteers, we have another morning arranged in July.

The Church yard has looked beautiful this year, snowdrops, followed by primroses and now buttercups, daisies and dandelions amongst other wild flowers. A patch of snake head fritillaries were found by the church boundary wall and we hope to see the pyramid and bee orchids again later in the year.

The school enjoys being able to come over to the church as the whole school can socially distance and be together. Recently they came over for an end of term service and a farewell to two governors retiring.

A visiting cellist came to play in our Church and we hope she will come back later in the year and perform for us and the village.

Our Bosmere Deanery has now combined with the Stowmarket Deanery and will be known as the Gipping Valley Deanery Synod. At the first combined zoom meeting, 40 members took part.

We have 28 members on our electoral roll.

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