

## St Mary's Church, Creeting St Mary - May 2024.

We continue with the same format, 2 services a month at 11 am and if there is a fifth Sunday in the month there is a service elsewhere in the Benefice. We have a small but loyal congregation with a number of people who also visit us regularly.

This rota of services could possibly change when our Rector, Reverend Philip Payne retires in July 2024.

Since before Christmas there have been church meetings, ministry meetings, parish meetings working together to plan for the future when Reverend Philip retires. We don't know how long the interregnum will be.

We have 29 people on the Electoral Roll.

In the summer months we open the Church on a Sunday from 11–4pm and other times when requested.

Creeting St Mary VAP school supports the church and meets in Church for end of term services. The whole school visit the cenotaph on Armistice Day. At harvest time the school donates a wonderful array of tins and packets and fruit and vegetables for the Food bank in Stowmarket which they bring across to Church for their harvest service.

This year we are concentrating on raising money to repair the vestry roof and update inside. We are very grateful to our Parish Council and the Gardenau charity based in Coddendam for their very generous support.

We have a fund raising afternoon in the V hall on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> for the Vestry refurbishment. We must also thank Maree Connold for her yearly craft days which raise money specifically for the Vestry.

We again had a beautiful pedestal of lilies in the Church over the Easter weekend remembering loved ones. The Easter weekend ended with a Festal evensong with the benefice choir. The church looked beautiful inside and with flood lights outside.

Over this year we have supported the Historic Churches Trust sharing half the money raised by cyclists from our Church in the annual Ride and Stride, Family Refuge in Ipswich, Christian Aid, St Mungos, a charity supporting homeless people in London and Find, an Ipswich based charity that supports people who are homeless, people who have been in prison and providing essential food banks.

Our church yard at the moment has a carpet of buttercups and daisies and will soon have pink pyramid orchids popping up everywhere.

Thank you to the parish council who support a gardener for the church yard and to our volunteers who meet 3 times a year to tidy and garden and to Mr James Mackintosh who keeps all the hedges cut.

This next year will be very challenging for our Church and its congregation, we are very grateful to those who support us.

Glynis Clint  
Parish representative.  
Church Report 2024.

