

Church Report – May 2025

We have had a busy year with Reverend Payne and his wife leaving us in August 2024 to retire to Soham. A wonderful Church service with the 10 Village band and a celebratory tea after wards at Stonham Aspal Village Hall made a very fitting goodbye.

Glynis Clint officially took on the job of Church warden in May 2024.

We continue with two services a month in our Church. Our congregation is small but numbers swell when we have visitors from other churches in the Benefice which happens quite regularly. As yet we have had no applicants for a new vicar in our Benefice.

We have 22 on our Electoral Roll.

There were two baptisms, two weddings and four funerals/interments.

We welcome the pupils and staff from Creting School to our Church, twice a term for end of term services, thanksgiving services and a Eucharist service. We have up to 95 children, younger brothers and sisters with parents, carers and teachers.

Three members of the PCC have completed more safe guarding training, two achieving their foundation stage certificate and the third completing the leadership course.

Safe guarding posters are now in prominent positions both in the church and Vestry and a list of charities and organisations can be found on one of the notice boards.

Bill Mackintosh and Julia Nesling made a comprehensive health and safety tour of the Church/Vestry and grounds. A number of points have been rectified with more to do.

Our church yard work continues with Mr Ian Westgate caring for the far church yard and verges and our volunteer mornings help enormously. The community pay back will be with us early May for a day and then later in the year.

Fund raising is still a very important issue as we hope to replace the Vestry roof as soon as possible.

Thankyou to Creting St Mary's Parish Council and the Gardenau Trust for their promise of monetary help once the work starts. Maree Connold had a craft day to raise funds for the Vestry roof. It was a very enjoyable and successful day with refreshments and beautiful Christmas Crafts to buy. A table top sale and tea afternoon last June was very successful too and helped to raise further money for the vestry roof repair.

Church and Village School again donated a huge amount of goods to the Suffolk Food Bank after the Harvest Festival service in October.

At Christmas after our very successful carol service we donated money to FIND, a charity in Ipswich who help the disadvantaged in many ways.

A number of projects have been completed this year. Our boundary flint wall is the longest church wall in Suffolk. Last summer we had part of it repaired paid by the PC. We are very grateful for their help. The circle part of our driveway was repaired by Terrasite, part of the Breheny group. They kindly donated their time and materials.

The vestry entrance porch was made safe and then later in the year part of the vestry flooring was renewed and the room had some woodworm treatment. Thank you to Jon Gill and Ron Clint.

Richard Hoy from Red Fox Plastering kindly repaired the wall behind the altar taking it back to the flint wall and when dried out will complete the repair. Richard Hoy only charged for the materials.

After many years our Treasurer, Mr David Haynes is stepping down. We thank him sincerely for his dedication and help in not only the financial side of church life but also monitoring building work including the huge job of the church roof repair.

We welcome Mr Shane Finbow who will be taking on the role of Church Treasurer.

Glynis Clint.

28.04.25