

## Manningford PCC – churchwardens’ report 2022

### Services and attendance

During the year there were 24 services, (Morning Prayer and Holy Communion). Average attendance has been just over 15, which is slightly above previous years. Highlights have been the Pet Service in September, attended by 39 adults and children, and not forgetting our 15 four-legged friends!

The Easter Day service was attended by 30 adults, plus children.

There was a joint Remembrance service with St James North Newnton in November, with a good congregation of 47, so we hope this can be repeated, especially as North Newnton hosted the joint Harvest Festival in October.

The Carol Service was attended by nearly 60 parishioners, and taken by our new Rector Rhona. Christmas Day enjoyed another good congregation of 64 adults and children.

Additionally, there were two baptisms, a funeral and burial and also a burial of ashes during the year.

There were 39 parishioners on the electoral roll.

Many thanks to our loyal organist Genevieve Benest, who has played at virtually all of the services during the year. Thanks also to those members of the PCC who have assisted with services.

We would also like to thank all clergy and lay readers who have taken services at St Peter’s.

Finally our thanks to all those who have cleaned and decorated the church during the year; it is greatly appreciated, as well as demonstrating what a greatly loved community facility it is.

### PCC meetings

There were three meetings during the year (May, September and November). Issues discussed included increasing congregation attendance, raising finance, repairs to the church and service schedules. For the coming year it is recommended that four meetings are held, together with a schedule agreed for the whole year.

### Special events

The PCC provided tea, coffee and cakes at the very successful Manningford platinum jubilee party in June.

Once again, the PCC organised the Manningford inter-village rounders competition in September.

### Projects

**Churchyard** – a general clear up of the churchyard involved the removal of undergrowth and overgrown laurel bushes, which has resulted in much improved visibility, together with the

planting of new shrubs on the boundary. The diocesan policy on graveside mementos has been displayed in the porch, as plastic flowers and other non-floral mementos are not permitted. During the coming year the PCC has agreed that the churchyard will be included in the survey of burial grounds being undertaken by *AG Int* on behalf of the diocese.

**Church inventory** – the inventory has been revised/rewritten and checked, as it was some years since it was last checked properly. It has been discovered that there are a number of items missing, most notably two items of church silver (an 18thC wine jug and a salver/paten). Extensive enquiries have been made, but with no result (a separate paper gives the detail). This serious loss has underlined the need for the inventory to be checked and validated annually.

**Cashless donations** – the church has no secure means for ad hoc cash donations by visitors for leaving in church and this will have caused a significant shortfall in income during recent years. A QR code via a '*Just giving*' site has now been set up for donations via credit/debit cards. It is hoped that a card reader can be installed in the church once internet access is available.

**Parish reference manual** - currently this does not exist, but it is hoped that this document will be produced during the coming year.

### Quinquennial inspection

The inspection was carried out during last August, but at the time of writing the report is yet to hand, but it is believed that minor repairs will be required to the north slope of the main roof.

John Thompson-Ashby

Lucy Palmer

23 April 2023