

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - APCM 2018/19

The last 12 months have been very busy for the Events Committee - not least because of all the annual events, but also a number of "one-off" events that took place this year. It is these that we highlight in this report.

This year can be summed up as:

A Centenary – Celebrations and Memories

Starting in April, we held a party in the hall to celebrate Harry Garrett's 100th Birthday. Harry seemed thrilled with the celebration and was touched to receive both a card and a beautiful cake made by Margaret Nicholas.

The annual Vicarage Bring and Share Lunch was held on Sunday 22 July. The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all. We are very grateful to Martin and Maggie for their hospitality for this very well attended occasion. Sadly, we weren't to know that it would be the last one hosted by Martin and Maggie but we will have lots of happy memories of past times spent with them both.

On the weekend of the 20th October we were delighted to have the opportunity to host the London Estonian Choir. (They used our church to record their entry to the Estonian Choir Festival - this year, celebrating Estonia's 100th anniversary of independence.) This event involved not only putting up the choir – (thank you Karen Forster-Pearce for all the organising) - but providing food for everyone throughout their stay. The entire choir proved delightful to look after. The weekend finished with a fantastic and much appreciated concert to showcase their work and talent.

That joyous weekend was swiftly followed by the rather more sombre celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War. To commemorate this momentous occasion the church was beautifully decorated with poppies and in collaboration with the Parish Council a tea was held in the Village Hall on the morning of the 11th of the 11th.

Between the Parish Council and St Mary's Riverhead this historic event was truly and uniquely commemorated, bringing many within the village together for a poignant and moving remembrance.

Another role of the Events Committee has been to decorate the phone box to tie in with some of the Church Events. We have used it to promote the Christmas Tree Festival - which continues to be very successful, the Helping Hands Initiative, and Easter. Many passers-by have commented that it is very good to see the church making use of this facility.

Our most recent event was to coordinate a leaving party for the sad departure of our vicar Rev. Martin Booth and his wife Maggie.

This took place on Sunday, March 10th in the Church Hall, following a moving Church Service. The Hall looked amazing – with special thanks to Christine Smith who should be warmly congratulated for her beautiful flowers and inspirational ribbons, and Margaret Nicholas who made and decorated a most beautiful cake. Well done everyone for such an amazing spread of food.

The Events Committee would like to thank all for their contributions and wish Martin and Maggie the very best in the next stage of their life. Without you the success of all our endeavours would not be possible.

If anyone has any suggestions for events that could be included in next year's programme, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The Events Committee

Diane Williams Veronica Todd Margaret Nicholas

Jill Dickenson Sarah Stott Margaret Curtis Christine Smith