

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - APCM 2020/2021

Sadly, we have had very few events since the last APCM in October, due to the continuing pandemic and resulting lockdown, but we did manage a couple of events, one in December 2020 and one February 2021.

The Christmas Tree Festival, which is normally held in church in early December, was held virtually instead. Bennet Smith did a fantastic job of setting up a website where people's photos of their Christmas Tree(s) were posted. It was a great success. Over 120 magnificent trees were featured, around 280 visits to the site were recorded and a total of £428.50 was raised, half of which was sent to Age UK, Sevenoaks. We believe it was definitely an uplifting "virtual" experience for everyone, despite lockdown.

The event in February, also virtual and on Zoom, was a "Fun Afternoon", specifically for people to meet our lovely new Vicar and his family who joined us at the beginning of February. The event consisted of a family quiz and a scavenger hunt, which everyone seemed to enjoy. We had a pretty good turnout, which was great. Charlotte Rakhit was able to put groups of people in Zoom breakout rooms and then enabled Revd Andy to visit each room in turn for about ten minutes. It worked really well, thanks to Charlotte's expertise.

As was the case in 2020, we have been unable to hold the Lent lunches, which usually happen in partnership with the North West Fellowship of churches in Sevenoaks. The same goes for the sunrise service and walk, followed by breakfast, which is normally held on Easter Sunday; another casualty of the pandemic and lockdown.

The Covid pandemic, and resulting lockdown, has a lot to answer for with regard to our "in church" life and what we have been able to do, but we are hopeful that, with all our prayers, it won't be too long before things return to near normal again and we are able to start thinking of future events and enjoying some in person fellowship.

As always, if anyone has any suggestions for events that would be fun for everyone, or would like to join the Events Team, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us.

The Events Committee March 2021

Ronnie Todd, Diane Williams,
Christine Smith, Jill Dickenson, Sarah Stott,
Margaret Nicholas, Margaret Curtis,