

ST PETER'S CHURCH COCKFIELD - REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

The Cockfield Church Community coped admirably and creatively with the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic and 2022 was the year when the shackles were finally discarded. Weekly congregations are slowly returning to previous levels but, sadly, some of our faithful supporters are no longer with us as they rest in peace. Throughout the ups and downs of the year Church members demonstrated an inexhaustible willingness to help neighbours when needed.

Although weekly attendance may be lower than what we would like, the Cockfield community look to St Peter's as a beacon of stability and are always keen to involve the church in community activities. The community carol procession and celebration in the church was very well attended with around 75 attendees, which was much higher than previous community advent events. It was a great relief to return to Sunday services in Church as well as the other occasional services and to be able to sing out our favourite hymns. Fortunately, a superb organist, Robert King has played the organ magnificently on many occasions during the year. At other times a combination of music sources have been used including modern Bluetooth connections operated from smartphones!!

Average attendance, where it can be assessed accurately for Statistics for Mission was 22 for the year with Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas services well attended.

Once again, all of the above demonstrates the high level of activity in the Cockfield Benefice with an extended congregation via Facebook and the webpage.

St Peter's is very fortunate that a willing group of ladies and gentlemen organise the rota for flower decoration, brasses, grounds & buildings, maintenance etc. and they work away quietly in the background. Traditional fundraising events continued and were well supported. The coffee morning and plant sale in the Spring at the Swineys', and throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn the continuing sale of books, plants and preserves (and bicycles) raised a pleasing sum of money. By kind permission of Susie and Edward Kydd, the much appreciated Summer Lunch was held again as well as a concert featuring The Emergers in the Autumn. The saxophone school provided an excellent concert at the end of July when a packed church appreciated the musical expertise.

The Church continues to reach out to our extended community to explain our Christian commitment not just on Sunday but every day of the week and to provide assistance with whatever is required.

The work with families and children continues through Cockfield Primary School in the form of weekly assemblies and Open the Book.

St Peter's continues to be a very outward looking Parish and money is raised for local and national charities, both at times of extreme need and as part of our annual giving. The food bank collection container at the back of the Church, for those less fortunate in our local community, has been very well supported throughout the year.

This year we have contributed generously to Christian Aid, Royal British Legion, Crisis at Christmas, Farming Crisis Network, Gatehouse Food Bank as well as special collections from funerals to specified charities, Afghanistan, St Nicholas Hospice (Norman Gregory), Ukraine (Red Cross), Princes Trust (Queen Elizabeth Memorial)

A special thank you is due to Rev Canon Sharon and the Ministry team for their dedication to the pastoral needs of our community. St Peters is fortunate to have such a dedicated team

Norman Kelly.
Churchwarden
St Peter's Cockfield