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**St. Edmund King & Martyr Church**

**ACLE**

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2023

**Incumbent:**

The Reverend Martin Greenland

The Rectory,

Norwich Road,

Acle,

Norwich

NR13 3BU

**ST. EDMUND KING & MARTYR CHURCH, ACLE - Annual Report for 2023**

***Background***

The Parochial Church Council for St. Emund’s Church, Acle has the responsibility of planning with the incumbent the whole task of the church in its caring, witnessing, social and ecumenical work. The responsibility includes the maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

***Membership***

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent**

TheReverend Martin Greenland

**Wardens**

Dr. Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald

**Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mrs. E Chloe Eccleston

Dr. Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald

**Elected Members**

Mr. Rodney Edrich, Vice Chair & Fabric Officer

Mr. David Wynne-Fitzgerald, Electoral Roll Officer

Dr. Michael Pitt

Mrs. E Chloe Eccleston

Dr. Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald, Secretary,

Mr. Don Cuddon, Treasurer

**Report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2023**

The PCC held meetings on 6th February; 17th April; 27th June;

4th September; 2nd October and 4th December. Attendance overall was good. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens took place on 18th February and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 28th May 2023.

Church Services continued without interruption throughout the year. There were twenty-three 8am services of Holy Communion and fifteen 11am Holy Communion services.

Twelve Morning Prayer services were held in total. Six of these services were led by our Lay Minister, Vic Tasker-Walsham. Vic’s final service was marked by celebrating the Easter Sunday Holy Communion service by Extension. Vic is committed to administering the Eucharist to the housebound of our community. A special gift of a portable cross in a wooden box engraved with St. Edmund’s church on the lid was presented to him after the service and his devoted wife, Christine, who he constantly acknowledges as his main support received flowers and chocolates.

Morning Prayer after Vic’s retirement was then led by our new Lay Reader, Nicholas Cowen. Nicholas led five services during the year with the sixth a Readings and Carols service with the Benefice Choir.

Compline was also included in the schedule of the services for the year.

A well-attended service on the Eve of the Coronation of King Charles III was held at 5.30pm on 5th May.

The Annual sunrise Easter morning service was held at St. Mary’s

church, Fishley. Returning from the service participants were hosted by Acle Methodist church to a cooked breakfast.

The Annual Remembrance Service was well supported by the local community including a large contingency from the Scouts, Army Cadets, British Legion. The last post was sounded by a bugle player from the Minstrel gallery.

**Special services**

There were six funerals conducted by the Rector,

Our Rector joined one couple in Holy Matrimony.

One child was Baptised.

One couple renewed their marriage vows,

Several children’s services were held including, Carols, Harvest Festival and Christingle where a total of 50 under 16s attended with 150 adults.

Our Rector continues to hold Holy Communion for the residents of the Limes, many of whom are church members and unable to get to the church owing to mobility problems. A regular service is also held at the new assisted living facility in the village called Swallowtail Place.

St. Edmunds continues to be active in the Acle Churches together which embraces the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Church of England faiths.

The Roman Catholics continue to use St. Edmund’s for their regular Saturday evening Mass at 5pm.

Throughout 2023 the PCC has complied in all respects with the House of Bishops’ guidance on Safeguarding as required by s5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

On Saturday 9th September the 40th Annual Norfolk churches Trust and Bike Ride was hosted at the church.

Lent course ‘Dust and Glory’ was held at the St. Edmund’s church hall facilitated on a rota with our Rector, Andrew King the Methodist Minister, and Father Alvin from St. Mary’s church, Great Yarmouth.

Sunday 10th September the first Acle Songs of Praise was organised by Brian Bemment and David Wynne-Fitzgerald. It was very well attended with a further one planned for the Christmas season but sadly our beloved organist Brian Bemment died suddenly on 4th October.

*Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald*

Churchwarden