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**St. Edmund King & Martyr Church**

**ACLE**

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2024

**Incumbent:**

The Reverend Martin Greenland

The Rectory,

Norwich Road,

Acle,

Norwich

NR13 3BU

**ST. EDMUND KING & MARTYR CHURCH, ACLE**

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***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**

 Dr. Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald

**Elected Members**

Dr. Rodney Edrich, Vice Chair & Fabric Officer

Mr. David Wynne-Fitzgerald, Electoral Roll Officer

Dr. Michael Pitt

Mrs. E Chloe Eccleston

Dr. Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald, [ PCC Secretary,]

**Report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2024**

The PCC held meetings on 15th January; 8th April; 5th August; 7th October and 9th 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 12th May 2024.

Church Services continued without interruption throughout the year. There were twenty-five 8am services of Holy Communion and 26 mid-morning Holy Communion services. Elizabeth Pio SSB delivered two home communions and Victor Tasker-Walsham regularly delivered communion to the housebound.

Eleven Morning Prayer services were held in total, ten of which were conducted by our authorised Lay Reader, Nicholas Cowen

Monday 23 March Compline was held at St. Edmunds with members of the Acle Churches together in attendance. In September Nicholas Cowan began conducting Compline Services by Zoom. These were welcomed by those who were unable to attend church services and are continuing by unanimous request.

Good Friday service was held at the Acle Methodist church with the wood cross processed through the village to St. Edmund’s church hall where hot cross buns were served with tea or coffee.

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 Service Stations of the Cross is held for the combined faiths to attend.

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 nine funerals conducted by the Rector and two funerals were conducted without a church service,

Our Rector joined one couple in Holy Matrimony.

Two children were Baptised.

Thirty-two worshippers attended the Reading and Carols service conducted by our Rector.

Two children’s Carol services for the local schools were held where 94 children and 47 adults attended at the second service. Numbers were not recorded for the first service, but a similar number attended.

Christingle 50 children attended and were accompanied by 88 adults which included members of the church.

In September a special service, ‘Celebrating Nature’ was held in the church. Three children attended and 88 adults. An exhibition to promote nature was open to the public in the Church Hall before and after the service organised by a variety of local organisations. This was so successful the PCC decided to hold similar service with a different theme in 2025 ‘Celebrating Care.’

The School Harvest Festival generated a huge amount of food offerings for the local food banks from the 170 children who attended along with their teachers and families totalling 31.

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 assisted living facility in the village called Swallowtail Place. The Rector is now continuing with services at the Old Rectory Residential Home as some our congregation also now reside there.

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 and special Holy day services.

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.

A Prayer Walk was held on June 2nd, 2024, with good attendance.

Lent Group was held on Mondays at 2.30 pm in the Methodist church beginning in February. The 5-week York Course was used with booklet and a recording of Q & A for group discussion after.

Following an accident in the church at the Pentecost with Baptism service funds have continued to be raised to make the church accessible for people of all abilities. The PCC agreed, following the results of the Feasibility Study completed by our Architect Nicholas Warns, to raise the floor thus removing the hazard of descending the steps into the church from the North and South entrances as well as the Bell tower. Other improvements could be made which have to be decided by the congregation and wider community.

*Diane Wynne-Fitzgerald*

Churchwarden