

**YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## **All Saints Church – Mountfield - 2021**

### **Review of the Year**

The greatest achievement of 2021 is that the Church has been open every day of the year, and last year for that matter, throughout the Pandemic. Thanks to Jackie Spriggs and friends of the church, this 900-year-old building at the centre of our village has welcomed those who sought solace and peace during the trying times we all experienced.

When possible, Holy Communion has been held in rotation with the 3 combined parishes on the third Sunday of the month at Mountfield. On the second Sunday there has been a combined service at Brightling and on the fourth Sunday at Netherfield. A non-Eucharist Family service has been held on the first Sunday, rotating between the three parishes. A service was held in Mountfield Church on Christmas day and attended by 25 people.

With Covid restrictions lifted this will be the sequence of services in 2022.

There was one Baptism, one Wedding and 7 Funerals/Internment of Ashes in 2021.

The PCC met 4 times during the year. Pastoral care and support for parishioners is constantly being provided by our Priest in Charge, Ann-Marie. Unsurprisingly attendance at services on Sundays has fallen to about 15 and it is hoped that the congregation will increase now that people are starting to be comfortable again in social situations.

There is always routine maintenance being undertaken on the church structure and the grave yard, supervised by the Church Wardens and financially supported by parishioners who specifically donate to the church for this purpose. The expensive replacement of the heating boiler in 2020 with a modern more economical model, is a good example. This has provided more reliable comfort for those who use the church and keeps damp at bay thus protecting the structure. Churches are subject to Quinquennial surveys and All Saints experienced one in 2021. The architect assessed the building to be in good repair but raised a list of items to be addressed over the next 5 years. Repairs to the tiling of the Chancel and Nave was top of the list and a contractor will do this work in May.

Fundraising continues to be imperative to the upkeep of the church and we are hugely grateful to all who support our events. These include the annual walk/horse ride, the Christmas Raffle and Woodland Walks. Together with The Mountfield Angels (gift aided donations) they raised just over £4,800. The PCC are also extremely grateful for the support from British Gypsum for their sponsorship of the annual horse ride and Millbrook Printing in their support of the raffle.

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