

Church Report St Mary the Virgin, Newbourne

Although the Parish is still in Interregnum and will be the for foreseeable future, much is being done at deanery level to re-organise the whole deanery. At the moment it very much looks as though Newbourne will become part of a nine church Parish, although this is still very much at the debate stage.

A meeting of all nine church PCCs was held in February at Kirton church hall to discuss the re-organisation and to give their views on how they would like to see the future of their own churches. A further meeting, once the hierarchy have had time to formulate different strategies, will be held. Newbourne PCC will keep the village advised of what the outcome will finally be. At present it will probably end up with a team ministry with one or possibly two vicars at the helm.

Currently, our services are conducted by Rev Dan Harrison, who comes in to take our communion services twice a month and is really helping fill the void in this interregnum period. The other services: Evensong is taken by Simon Pattinson and Maxine Green takes the Family service. Both these services are very popular and attract parishioners from other churches as well as our own.

Much work has been done to the church building over the past year as many of you will have noted if you have been into or around the church. Window architraves, new stonework to the windows, removal of vegetation and repointing of the brickwork has been carried out together with the redecoration of the porch. The funds for this were raised through various grants and of course, fund raising in the village over the past few years.

Simon Pattinson organises the rota for the maintenance of the churchyard and is always keen to recruit new volunteers. This is normally on a Saturday morning for a couple of hours and involves strimming or mowing. We really are in need of more volunteers from the village if only for a short time, even if you can only manage once a month are not a churchgoer. It will help to keep this wonderful feature of our village in tip top condition. In addition, twice yearly there is a working party – Spring and Autumn to tackle the larger jobs. Always hard work but always good fun with refreshments at regular intervals.

Fund raising over the past year consisted of the Open Gardens weekend in early Summer, Harvest Supper in the Church in the Autumn and the Annual Historic Churches Bike Ride. All of these were very successful and thanks must go to all those who supported these events or took part in them. The Auction of Promises did not go ahead in the Autumn as the PCC felt that one year without this annual event may rekindle enthusiasm for it in 2015 when it will be held once again in the Autumn on 21st November. Hopefully, this will attract a larger attendance than the previous couple of years.

In addition the Harvest Supper will be held after the service in the Church on 4th October. The Annual Bike Ride will take place on Saturday, 12th September. A Bring and Buy

Stall will be held in the church from 10 am to Noon on 2nd May, with Coffee/Tea and cakes on sale. It is planned to hold this bi-monthly on 1st Saturday of the month if the first one proves to be successful. It will give villagers a chance to pop in for coffee and chat whilst rummaging through the items on sale. Also give people a chance to donate unwanted items/gifts etc.

The PCC wish to thank the Parish Council and all the residents of Newbourne for their continued support and hope this will continue for the coming years. Even non-church goers will appreciate what a gem our ancient church is and what an asset to the village.

Newbourne PCC