

Parochial Church Council of Great & Little Tey

## **Annual Report of St James The Less Church for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Robbie and I would like to thank all those people in the Church and parish, who during the past year, have supported and helped in so many ways to make our roles as Churchwardens a happy and rewarding one, especially Ian, Jane, John and Christopher for the encouragement and help they give us each week. John's weekly e-mails are invaluable.

The services throughout the year have gone well and have been well supported, it has been a joy to see how the four Churches support each other. The Plough and Rogation services are looked forward to and we were blessed with good weather. Thanks to Gerald and Roger who stood in for Alan who was in hospital at that time.

During Lent we held our usual Compline Services on a Wednesday evening and those who came enjoyed the peace of the last office of the day.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Queen Camilla. We lit the beacon and toasted their Majesties on the Sunday, after our special service.

After a talk on "how small Churches thrive" David made us a photographic board for our "A year in the life of our Village" project and thank you Alan for all the lovely photos. Refreshments are available to visitors daily, also the children's corner has been revamped.

Robbie and I attended the visitation service in Coggeshall Church and we congratulate Ian our Rector on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

We held our Music for a summer afternoon in September and enjoyed a recital given by Lynn on her harp followed by afternoon tea in the Churchyard on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon.

An extra event was a talk and afternoon tea. Twinkle twinkle little star was the subject, telling how the nursery rhyme was written by the Taylor sisters from Colchester.

Gifts from our Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas were taken to The New Hythe young people's home where they were gratefully received.

The hedge surrounding the cremated remains area developed box blight and box caterpillar and had to be removed. It has been replaced with euonymus hedging.

The Rector and Jane started an Open the Book project, reading and acting out Bible stories to children in Great Tey School, followed a few months later in Chappel School. We really enjoy the experience as do the children.

During the winter months we tried an experiment with our heating in the Church. It was so expensive to use the storage heaters that we tried putting the under pew heaters on three hours before the service. It was a great success and saved a lot of money.

Some test drainage holes have been dug beside the path in preparation for applying to have a toilet built. A feasibility study is going on at this moment in time.

Lastly a big thank you to Richard, who has worked so hard to keep our finances in such good order and doing all the extra work of applying for faculties and supervising all the ongoing work in the Churchyard. Thank you to Gerald who keeps the Churchyard looking so nice cutting the grass most weeks during the season.

A special thank you to Ian and Celia whose knowledge is such a help when organizing all our services. Where would we be without them.

Thanks to everyone who play any part in the life of our Church, whether it be cleaning, flower arranging, reading lessons, intercessions or grass cutting.

Carolyn Richer and Robbie Watson, Churchwardens.     March 2024