

## COPDOCK with WASHBROOK CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT 2023

Dear Parishioners

It has been almost 22 Months since Revd. Annette Shannon moved on to another part time ministry post and last Year we became a Benefice of four parishes instead of six.

We are still advertising our vacancy for a priest and pray the right person applies for the post.

Although we are still in this interregnum our congregation remains strong and our worshipping community has retained its numbers with a new revised total of 40 on our church electoral roll.

Special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest, and Remembrance all had very good attendance levels and it was wonderful to host the primary school children for their Easter service with 84 of the school children and over 100 parents, grandparents and teachers. The children's Easter bonnet parade was a joy to behold and their story presentations were excellent.

It was a pleasure to host 9 Weddings in the last Year and with our neighbouring events venue transition complete we hope to hold many more in the future.

With our church attendances continuing to be very good for a rural parish it has been a pleasure to offer our new facilities of an indoor toilet and much improved P/A system.

We are very appreciative to Revd. Tony Wilcox and our Rural Dean Revd. Jenny Seggar, also Revd. Chris Chapman and other retired clergy who have been leading services that the Lay Elders are not licensed to take. With their help we have been able to hold a service every Sunday at St Peters.

We thank Haley Debenham our Benefice administrator for her invaluable work behind the scenes coordinating weddings, service lists and communicating with the ministry team, wedding couples and funeral directors and minuting churchwardens meetings.

We thank all who give regularly by standing order and envelopes, which are so important to enhance financial stability; also those who use other methods of offertory all of which are essential to help us pay our way.

Fund raising has continued to be very good with our annual plant sale, Christmas market (on behalf of the Heritage Trust), Monthly Saturday Markets and another fabulous cheque from the Copdock Bike Show committee of £1000.00 for litter picking at the Trinity show ground. We thank all who helped at these in any way; they would not be successful without your wonderful support.

We wish to thank all of you who use your gifts and talents to keep our church alive and growing:  
the Cleaners, Flower arrangers, Churchyard workers, Bell ringers, organists, and all P.C.C members.

We are so pleased to have a wonderful community here in Copdock and Washbrook, which is so supportive and active. May the church here in these Parishes continue to grow in number, faith and service to God. May we also pray that it grows younger and stronger.

With Gods blessings to you all

Churchwardens

Adrian Basham and Ruth Lincoln