

Report for annual PC meeting from Holy Trinity Church

Annual checks

Inventory of Church Articles complete and accounted for.

The Log book is complete and up to date.

Fire extinguishers have been checked and passed.

The Lightning Conductor was checked and passed.

Fabric

The church has been maintained, by attention to electrical and fabric requirements.

Annual review of the Organ two issues identified and serviced.

Church Cleaning by volunteers is very much appreciated by all who attend the church.

Churchyard

The Churchyard being a closed churchyard continues to be managed by the Parish Council with whom we meet and work closely throughout the year, carrying out tasks such as Topple Testing (movement of gravestones) monitoring overhanging branches of the trees and management of the grass, hedges and pathways.

Interregnum

Due to the retirement of the Rev. Paul Clarke because of health issues we are again in interregnum.

Section 11/12 meetings and the Benefice Profile being reviewed and adapted to suit changing needs.

In October 2025 we welcomed the Reverend Kevin Buttress and his wife Dawn (a Lay elder in training) to our Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland. Our prayers were answered with such a successful appointment.

Service provision

Our very special appreciation is to the Rev Stephen Snelling, who along with other visiting clergy has ensured that we have maintained the various services in the Benefice. Our thanks also go to our dedicated and committed Ministry Team of Alison and Kevin and also to Val our Organist enabling Holy Trinity Church to hold services, as well as supporting families with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

We welcomed Freeman CPS for using Holy Trinity Church for their Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrations, a mix of songs, poems and readings all beautifully and proudly read and presented, a joy to witness.

The Memorial Service and the Remembrance Day Service in November, have a very special place for the local community.

With the continued growth of new homes in Stowupland we have had the pleasure of welcoming new members to our congregation.

For the Harvest Service, shared with the URC and Freeman Primary School, a large amount of food items were given and donated to the Stowmarket Food Bank.

Advent services leading to Christmas, Christingle (for the Children's Society), Carols by Candlelight (donations to the Mix) with the Stowmarket Brass Band, and the Crib Service, all very special.

Christmas "Carols in the Crown" a great evening of raised voices, helped with the welcome portable organ played by Andrew. This has become a popular annual event. Our grateful thanks and appreciation go to the manager and all at the staff of the Crown for making this an enjoyable evening.

Social and Fundraising

We held both our Spring Craft Fair and Christmas Fair, once again both were very well attended and providing much needed additions to our Church funds.

In addition, through the Remembrance service, Christingle and Carols by Candlelight we were able to make donations to the Royal British Legion, Children's Society and the local Food Bank.

Coffee Cake and Chat continue to be a popular event on the 3rd Saturday of each month held in the Church Hall, lots of chat and the sampling of cakes and savouries.

Our Flower Festival was held in June, the church filled with colour, perfume and great imagination.

We are grateful for all who willingly take part and offer their services and skills each year when the Flower Festival and other events take place.

In September 'An Evening of Song' was held in the church presented by talented musicians playing classical and modern music who gave their time freely, it was lovely to have a full church with all entry money for the event used for church upkeep.

Ann Doubtfire
Sue Hayter
Church Wardens