

## **Annual PCC Report for the Stradishall Parish Council AGM 2021**

In February 2020 the Revd Eve Bell was Inducted as a part-time Priest to the Bansfield Benefice. Then like everywhere else, Stradishall Parish Church was closed, and all services, activities and meetings were suspended at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pandemic lockdown in March which in the end continued right through to the end of 2020 and beyond. This meant that the Church had very little income from March onwards, except for the £600 kindly given by the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the cemetery. We were able to advertise that the Church could be opened by appointment for private prayer subject to strict conditions but in fact to date no one has taken advantage of this initiative. The secretary and treasurer did go into the Church on Remembrance Day as advertised and with one other parishioner they read through the short service, laid the parish wreath, recited the list of names on the War Memorial plus the 2 extra names and kept the 2-minute silence.

The Rector Eve Bell, started up a weekly Sunday Benefice Zoom service in the summer and then in the autumn it was agreed by the Benefice and Eve to open Wickhambrook Church every other Sunday for a shortened Communion Service when regulations allowed. Each parish took it in turn to host the service at Wickhambrook and with the help of the Wickhambrook Churchwardens it became available for Benefice parishioners who were self-isolating to watch via Zoom. This proved very popular with the regular worshippers in the Benefice and on the other alternative Sunday, the aforementioned Zoom service continued.

The PCC are very grateful to Adrian Lee, Robert Helliwell and Philip Rous who continued to keep the churchyard mown and strimmed as well as cutting back branches throughout the summer and autumn. PCC members regularly checked on the Church and occasionally cleaned to keep the bat excrement and cobwebs at bay.

Because the PCC was unable to meet to discuss the future viability of the Church it was agreed to keep this under review and discuss it further in 2021. Sadly, the PCC is now reduced to 4 members including the Rector.

Jane Helliwell

PCC Secretary