

St James' and the Methodist Church, Grewelthorpe

Report to the Annual Meeting of Grewelthorpe Parish Council

March 2021

Under normal circumstances at this stage I would be saying what a busy year we have had in the church calendar! Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and, like most organisation, we have had to follow strict guidelines. However, there was a window of opportunity and we managed an outdoor Remembrance service in the church yard. This was particularly well attended, and brought a sense of community to our village.

The church building has remained open wherever possible for private prayer, only being closed for cleaning after funerals/weddings etc. Our main weekly services have continued but have been held via Zoom on a Sunday morning. However, when allowed there have been communion services held in Church. Christmas is an important time in our church calendar, and we did manage to go ahead with a Carol service. Not being able to take part in any singing, was very strange. Probably, a lot of humming going on underneath masks!

Many of you look forward to the annual Epiphany event held in church, which is a celebration featuring brilliant talent in the village. Of course not forgetting the supper served afterwards. Well, after a lot of deliberation and a lot of technological wizardry, this event went ahead virtually. The performances were shown on a closed You tube channel and, were enjoyed by those that watched it. Fingers crossed, 2022, normality may resume.

Our link with Grewelthorpe School has been maintained, when certain year groups were asked to design a Christmas card suitable for distribution around the village. We were thrilled with the result, as we hope that the recipients were also.

Here in Grewelthorpe we are in a fortunate position being a joint Anglican and Methodist church, after the retirement of the Rev'd Pat Malham last year we were pleased to welcome the Rev'd Ian Pruden and his wife. Also, we are pleased to announce that Kathy Couchman will be taking over the house of duty ministry and, will be moving into the house on Hazel Close in the next few months. She will provide valuable help and support to our existing vicar Rev'd Ian Kitchen.

We have supported the Ripon City of Sanctuary, whose charity supports refugee work. After putting an appeal for second hand clothes, bags etc, the village responded extremely well. In addition, we have also supported the Salvation Army, who did a Christmas appeal and, the Ripon Food bank. Unfortunately, our usual fundraising both of church and for other charities have not been able to go ahead.

Our work looking after and maintaining the fabric of the building continues, especially the need of a new roof. Behind the scenes work is still ongoing in applying for grants and organising a working party for when things return to some normality.

We are looking forward to having a couple of trees planted in the churchyard, as we have lost some due to storms last year.

Life still continues even during difficult times. As always, we really do appreciate the support from the village and hope that the church will continue to be an important part of village life. We are a friendly church and love to welcome new people.

Judith Beresford

Secretary to St James' and the Methodist church, Grewelthorpe