

Annual Report for Elsfield APCM for the year 2022



We entered 2022 hopeful that we would see a return of all our congregation but for many it continued to be a difficult time with extra responsibilities and limited resources. Numbers attending the services had been lower perhaps than 2020 but still a joyful and welcoming occasion whenever you step through the porch. For Andy, Joel and I - serving St Thomas church and her community is a highlight in our ministry and we love presiding and preaching here. The smaller numbers and difficulty to find volunteers does mean it has been harder to plan and organise too much in advance.

But I am grateful for the continual support and dedication of our Church wardens - Justine and James - who ensure services take place each month and that folk from our congregation and community are

informed and encouraged to participate and attend services as much as possible. Thank you to all those who have helped with readings at church services - it really makes a difference with our worship. Do let us know if you would like to be involved or help in this coming year - we are always looking for more readers and welcomers.

A huge thank you goes to Andrew Walter who continues to play the organ for us and organises our carol services with the excellent Elsfield Singers. I know this service is a highlight for many of us. Thank you Andrew and for all that give to this community in time and talent.

I know Justine and I are keen to get the church open during the day after May bank holiday - if you are able to help in any way with this please let her know. So many folk visit our church and I know the sacred space is wonderful for private prayer.

A big thank you to our flower arrangers and all those who decorate the church with gorgeous flowers throughout the year, and especially around Festivals.

Thank you to all members of the PCC for your continuing support and your decisions to remain on the committee despite challenges and extra responsibilities in your own lives. This coming year Emma and Nick are stepping down and we want to thank them for all their service on the PCC. We want to



extend a warm welcome and a big thank you to Peter who is joining the committee at the APCM. We do have a vacancy on the PCC which is such a vital role in the church and her community. If you would like to know more do get in touch with me. We meet 5 times a year and help organise community events as well as church services.

In 2022 we said goodbye to Mavis Curtis, Cath Dendy and Carolyn Brown, all of whom contributed so much to this community and are deeply missed. To Carolyn we are especially grateful every time we gather in the building here in Elsfield, conscious that her faith and commitment was instrumental in ensuring that it continued as a place of worship.

Despite the losses and challenges we have seen new people join our congregation and have seen a steady and committed number come each month to worship together. Highlights for me included the Benefice Maundy Supper where James managed to organise 45 Fish n' chip suppers on time! The church was decorated wonderfully for Harvest Festival on the 18th of September and to add the celebrations Andy was Licensed to the Benefice of Marston and Elsfield by Archdeacon Jonathan (Photo below). For Christmas - thanks to a wonderful team effort - we managed to stage a brilliant Christmas Market which I was able to attend this year, raising much needed funds and enjoying time together!

If you would like to get more involved in church life or help at one of our community events do get in touch! St Thomas is a parish church for all, inclusive and welcoming.

Blessings, Revd Skye Denno - Vicar

