

Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Loppington

PCC 2023 Annual Report to the Parish Council

Loppington's Parish Church continues to be led by Reverend Adam Clayton with the support of two lay readers. Tracey Barton leads the Family service on the first Sunday of the month and Paul Hume – Miller leads Matins on the third Sunday. The regular attendance of the services is by 12 – 15 people. Christmas, Easter, and Harvest Festival services are well supported by the Loppington Community. The church is open daily, thanks to a team of volunteers who lock and unlock the door on a weekly basis. Except for Lent and Advent, there will always be flowers in the church. The flowers are provided and arranged by a volunteer group of ladies. The church aims to be welcoming and a place for quiet contemplation.

Helen Lopez, the Pastoral Care visitor, assists Adam through visiting the sick and bereaved.

Fund raising is a priority, as an annual Community Share of nearly £16,000 must be paid as well as the general running costs such as oil, electricity, insurance, water and the maintenance of the building which is a large sum for an average congregation of 12. We have an active Fund- raising committee who the community generously support. Annual events include the Pimm's Party hosted by Clare at Loppington Hall, the Summer Fete and Harvest Supper. During 2023 a skittles night and a Hallowe'en Bingo was also held.

At Christmas we continue to display a Christmas tree for the community in the churchyard and last year a stable was also erected with a depiction of the Nativity scene taken from one of the church stain windows displayed. Unfortunately, the wind got the better of the hanging causing damage to it. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for the grant from the Solar Fund towards the cost of the Christmas trees.

Church yard: The church yard is maintained by a group of volunteers from the community, ably led by Tracey Barton. Each session ends with tea, coffee, cake, and banter. The cake ensures an attendance of many people. Information on the dates of the churchyard tidy sessions is in the Village News and on the notice board in the church porch.

Pene Parker

PCC Secretary (on behalf of the Church Wardens)