

# The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

## Annual Report

### of the Parochial Church Council of Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton



For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Holy Innocents' PCC was very pleased to be able to support the Churchwardens who were unstinting in all they did, with the help of our retired Clergy, in keeping the Church

truly alive in the months of interregnum, and we warmly welcomed the Rev'd Ben Edwards as our Vicar in September 2021. We look forward to supporting Fr. Ben in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC co-operates with the PCC of St. Peter's, Thurston, within the Benefice of Great Barton and Thurston, to share resources.

Worship in personal presence in the Church was restored at Easter 2021, to everyone's joy. However many activities have not been possible in the past year due to the pandemic, but they are gradually being restored, and hopefully the coming year will see a full restoration. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to become part of our parish community at Holy Innocents. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

We have done our best to keep in touch with as many people as possible through our website and Facebook pages, through emails, and through our magazine The Messenger which is now online (with printed copies available for those who need it). In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate these objectives when life returns to normal, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of Holy Innocents, and also the Church Institute, which we use for outreach.

We have had no baptisms, but four couples married in Church this year. There were seven funeral services held in Church, and three at the Crematorium conducted by members of our ministry team,. There were five committals of ashes.

We have registered for ECO Church, and have many ecological practices.

We are in close touch with the Primary School. Rev'd Ben leads worship there every other week at present. He is in regular contact with the school and is also a school governor. We had a wonderful Christingle service last year, which was well attended by parents also, and was a joyful occasion. We will look to invite the children to the church as often as is practicable, and continue to provide services to the school wherever we can. Invites will also go out to Together Cafe Church.

We are very grateful to Peter Robinson for keeping us up-to-date with General Data Protection Regulations and to Mary Fawcett of St. Peter's and Claire MacKichan for overseeing Safeguarding requirements for us. Also our thanks to Peter, for looking after our website and Facebook page.

We are so grateful, too, to all our benefactors who enabled us to carry out the refurbishment of our Porch and are helping us with the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Holy Innocents the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwarden/s, currently two members of the Thingoe Deanery Synod and nine other elected members of the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

## **Financial Review (Holy Innocents') The Accounts are to follow shortly**