

Reports from organisations within the Parish of Woolverstone 2017-18

St Michael's Woolverstone

At present there are 18 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. No names were added or removed during the year. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 7, but this number increased at festivals we are thrilled to be able to say that there were 150 at the Christmas Carol Service.

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the months and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Taize services provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided by Worship the Woolverstone Way, this has also seen new families in our church. We have also now started a Traditional said service once a month so as to even out the balance of formal and informal services.

We enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated five weddings, one baptism and held two funerals and one memorial service in our church over the past year.

We want our church to be open to our community for private prayer, reflection and enjoyment of the environment within the building and this year has seen a 24/7 opening which has received many positive comments. We are mindful of some who are concerned for the safety of the building and we are continuing to monitor the situation carefully. We offer refreshments to our visitors and from comments left in our Visitor's Book, this is very much appreciated. The new heating system has been installed and we hope will be working at full capacity by next winter when we will have ironed out issues with our electricity supply.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Wherever possible we raise the profile of local, national and global situations that need our prayer and this year the collection from the Carol Service was given to the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter, the Christian Aid Week collection went to further the work of Christian Aid and the offering on Remembrance Day was given to the Royal British Legion. This year has seen the start of a local Death Café which has been held in St Michaels Church, we assume from the numbers attending on an ever-increasing basis that we are meeting a need with this venture.

The church building is due its quinquennial inspection this year having last been carried out in 2013. Areas in need of attention are the porch plasterwork and the plaster on the wall of the north facing tower wall. The latter has been caused by water ingress facilitated by the relatively small length of guttering on the outside, which receives half of the rainwater from the main roof. We have however had a roofer come and carry out work on this section of the roof.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is; those who help in the churchyard, those who clean, vergers at weddings and funerals, and so many more.

Berners Hall Management Committee

Yet again, BHMC have struggled to continue with the day to day running of Berners Hall. We are now down to only 5 members who all carry out their Trustee responsibilities to the best of their abilities, knowledge and experience.

Our Booking Secretary, Jenny Double, has now, after many years dedicated service, decided to retire from this position. We are indebted to her for all the tireless work and effort she has carried out over the years. On behalf of BHMC and all Woolverstone residents and hirers, we would like to take this opportunity to thank her most sincerely, and to present her with this bouquet as a token of our appreciation.

For the time being, all Booking/Hiring enquiries should be made to: Sarah Hutton 19 Main Rd
Woolverstone, IP9 1AR

Mobile – 077540 75684 Email – sarahhuton7@btinternet.com

We rely heavily on receipts from hirings & cottage rent to keep Berners Hall running. Although no fund raising has been done for quite a while, BHMC look forward to helping Woolverstone Parish Council in their forthcoming events.

During the past year, we have been very busy with the day to day running and general upkeep of Berners Hall and we are pleased to report the following progress updates.

1. All of the recommended work suggested in the 'First year plan' of the Buildings report has been carried out.
2. We are currently working on the 'Three year plan' (it was five!) and are proceeding with brick replacing and re-pointing. This project, together with the upgraded/replacement rewiring and decorative tile projects are being carried out gradually to avoid excessive expenditure. It is envisaged that a complete re-roofing will be necessary at some stage, and we are therefore mindful to include this factor in future budgets.
3. A new cooker has been installed in the kitchen, which boasts a top oven/grill and a large fan assisted oven.
4. All of the curtain tracks have been replaced, including those on the high stage window. In addition, all of the curtains have been cleaned and rehung.
5. The cottage garden fence has now been replaced following storm damage to the original.
6. A sign has been positioned on the cottage gate to avoid cars being parked in the tenants garden. We would appreciate any event advertising to include the fact that over-flow parking is available. As and when we are aware of any large event taking place in the hall, a further sign will be placed at the entrance to the beet pad to indicate the location of over-flow car parking. We are extremely grateful to Geoff Mayhew for the use of his land for this purpose.

7. The Kitchen, Ladies, Gents and Hallway have all been re-decorated to brighten and freshen the interior and the old institutional-grey doors repainted white. The Gents floor and tiling has also had a refreshing red repaint. External painting will be carried out next year.

8. Risk assessments have been carried out for Health & Safety / Fire precautions and all other matters subject to legislation have been checked and certified, including but not limited to Extinguishers, Electrics, Signage, Liabilities etc.

9. We have updated our Operating Policies, copies of which can be found on the notice board, to comply with current legislation. These are necessary to complete the annual submission of our accounts to the Charity Commission.

Thank you to everyone who supports and/or uses Berners Hall in some way or another – we couldn't keep going without you. In particular, grateful thanks to the following people for reasons too numerous to list:

Anthony Double, Jenny Double, Peter Glading, Harold & Ruth Shipp, and finally the 5 members of BHMC.

BHMC Members/Trustees:

Judy Cracknell –Treasurer, Sarah Hutton – Secretary, Elspeth Iskander, Joan Patching and David Hazlewood.

New members and Booking Secretary are urgently needed – please help if you can!

Friends of Woolverstone

Friends of Woolverstone is a small, ever changing group of people who come together to complete identified tasks. In the process a small amount of money is raised for Village.

Living in a linear style village we have little opportunity to meet and discuss our needs and fears informally. No village green, no pub, no shop. Friends of Woolverstone help address that. We come together and carry out a common task, which raises the sense of Community.

Tasks completed in the last year have been the restoration of the churchyard back to an area that looks loved and cared for and that everyone is proud of.

Christmas Wreath making with Myrtle and Mint. "Punch and Pie", where we all enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and ate mince pies and sausage rolls. Ongoing maintenance of Horsepond's Green which is an area of historical interest that was bequeathed to us and needs maintaining.

Open Gardens which saw hundreds of people visiting our beautiful village and having a fabulous summer's day complete with tea and cake, raised a sense of pride in our beautiful village.

This summer we are about to enjoy a wonderful evening of music made famous by the Great Jazz Divas presented by the lovely Joanna Eden. Not Jazz as you might imagine it, just a lovely voice presenting familiar music that we have all loved and enjoyed at various times in our lives.

Finally for this year, in July the Classic Car and Motorcycle Event. Another great day for us all to come together as a Community and enjoy working together, having a lovely time as a group of people who are proud of where they live and want to share it.

For the future, we are awaiting the Church Architects decision on our offer giving our Church Porch which is looking sad, to give it a coat of Lime wash to brighten it and raise a sense of welcome to our visitors.

Please support our Community at this time by buying your Joanna Eden tickets.

Jen Young. Chair of Friends of Woolverstone

Woolverstone United Football Club

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Another season has ended with the Under 18 side finishing third in their league and the senior team in mid-table in division 3 of the Suffolk & Ipswich League. Next season it is hoped that a reserve side be formed from the Under 18s with both teams competing in the Suffolk & Ipswich League.

On reflection a reasonably successful season but it would be nice to see more local support for a club that celebrates its centenary in 2022.

David Hazelwood
Treasurer.