

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, LUTON – REPORT FOR YEAR 2019

Attendances at the regular services have continued mainly with visitors from the Team churches supporting us which we are very grateful. The festival Services are always full. We had one Wedding this year, James French, which was arranged for the first day of the Open Studios, but nevertheless all went well, the Artists agreed to co-operate and after the ceremony John and Tom Reddaway arrived with the tractor and trailer and with the help of David, Thomas Vooght and many from the village the church was emptied in 15 minutes of the seats and they were taken up to Lower Rixdale for safety.

Our fund raising which, of course , was the Open Studios, which was arranged by Angie, Paul and Andrew, this together was combined with a Farmers Market on the second Saturday and was a complete success. A Quiz was also arranged in the early Spring, Harvest Festival was followed by a Supper in the Elizabethan and our thanks go to Anne and Nick for a wonderful meal, and at the end of the year a Carol Service which was followed by Mulled Wine and mince pies in the Schoolroom after the Service.

Work which was carried out in the year was pointing of the stone on the East end of the Church and around the sides as noted by our Annual report. Work was held up with the weather and we were compelled to ask for extra time with the grant we were receiving for replacing the guttering. This was agreed with the Historic Churches Fund and the work was put back to the next year.

I would like to thank Mary Reddaway for her work as Treasurer, John Reddaway and Tom for their work with the building side of things and John for his work as assistant Church Warden. Thanks to Angie for keeping notes of the meetings. Thanks to Nick and the Choir for attending our special service and Nick for playing the organ, and also to Sue Harvey for keeping us on track with the Safeguarding issues. Finally I would like to thank all who have supported us during the year and helped with refreshments, decorating the church and supporting our services.

And last, but certainly not least I would like to thank The Revd Jane Frost, our vicar, and The Revd Withnell for giving us the Plough Sunday Service and their help and guidance. Thank you all.