**Annual Report January – December 2020
St Mary’s, Chediston PCC**

In 2020 the PCC met on 23rd January, 18th June (on Zoom), 1st September (on Zoom), 14th October (APCM, St Mary’s Church).

The pattern of church life was disrupted by the Covid 19 global pandemic and the government restrictions that prevented and placed limits on services, funerals, marriages and fundraising events for much of 2020.

**Pattern of Services**

From January to March services took place twice monthly and between September and December less frequently. Average attendance was 14, an increase of 2 from 2019.
Attendance numbers were higher at the Harvest Festival (in the church) and at the December Carol Service (round a Christmas tree outside) and 11 people gathered outside round the War Memorial in November.
In 2020 there were 25 names on the electoral roll.

**Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, Interment of Ashes**

 2 marriage ceremonies booked for 2020 postponed to 2021
1 interment of ashes
2 burials, 1 graveside, 1 church and graveside

**Safeguarding**

There were no safeguarding issues in 2020.

**War Graves Signage**

An official war graves sign was put up in the church yard, marking the single Chediston war grave.

**Churchyard Maintenance**

A church yard clearing party took place on 15 August with 19 villagers working hard. All the
grass was cleared up to the newly installed compost bin, made from pallets, some of which were donated by villagers. The parish council donated £60 towards clearing costs.

**CCLA**

The PCC had an investment options meeting with the CCLA on 12 February. The aim is to take investment steps to get a better return and assist in paying annual bills.

**Charitable Donations**

Veronica Downing organised a plant stall in May that raised £113 for the Halesworth Volunteer Centre.
The old phone box started to be used as a weekly collection point for items for the Waveney Food Bank and Halesworth Community Larder. Thanks to Graeme Williams for taking the donations to Halesworth.
£176.72 collected for Christian Aid at the Harvest Festival.

**Fundraising Events**

3 riders took part in the Ride and Stride, Suffolk Historic Churches Bike ride in September. Thanks to Graeme Williams, Oliver Wareham and John Parsons who raised £750.
The Christmas Fair took place digitally and raised £850. Thanks to all those who made chutney, masks, the Christmas hamper and contributed to the raffle. Thanks also to Wendy Burroughes and those who helped her organize a children’s Christmas sticker trail through the village, Thanks to Chediston children’s charity who donated money to buy gifts for the children who took part.

**Church Room**

The village clubs – Knit and Knatter, Table Tennis, Carpet Bowls, Pop up Social Group stopped meeting indoors due to government restrictions. The Knit and Knatter group did manage a few outdoor meetings, to knatter rather than to knit.
The Gardener’s Exchange group communicated through What’s App.

**Thank you to everyone who helps.**

Thank you to the cleaning team, Graeme and Ann Williams, Julia Manton, Dave Brooks. Thank you to Yvonne and Tony Watts and Joan Williamson for managing and maintaining the Church Room.

PCC Secretary Julia Manton
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