

For the Annual Meeting of Launcells Parish Council

St Swithin's Church

Our church services continue each Sunday with Holy Communion on the second and fourth, Morning Prayer on the first and a Taize service on the third Sunday evening, and morning prayer via Zoom has continued Monday to Friday, with an average of 15 members from 3 sometimes 4 of the 5 churches in the Benefice taking part. (All services are now advertised in the Parish Magazine as well as in the Church porch and online at a 'Church Near You.'

We have maintained a strong link with the Museum and Heritage Centre and the Tourist Information Centre in Bude. If there are 5 Sundays in a month, there is a Benefice Service held, with each church in the Benefice taking a turn to host. These have been a wonderful opportunity for members of the five churches to meet. Morwenstow, Kilkhampton, Stratton, Poughill and Launcells.

The Old Cornwall Society held a St. Piran's Day service with us last year with refreshments afterwards, which was well attended.

We held a Flower Festival to celebrate St Swithin's Day, with flower arrangers from both the Launcells and the surrounding Parishes. Refreshments were served during the festival, as they were during the Craft Fayre held in September. Our Harvest Festival service was held in October, with a Harvest Lunch afterwards in the Parish Hall. And in November a Remembrance Service was held with a wreath laid on the memorial.

The Crib Service was held just before Christmas, with families taking part singing Carols and building the Crib scene. And after Christmas, we held a service of 9 lessons and carols, which also was well attended.

We were delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho on 29th November, to plant the 'Darley Oak' sapling from the Linkingthorne Oak tree of 1000 yrs old. Before planting the tree and making a short very amusing speech, the Lord Lieutenant was introduced to our Launcells Parish Councillors and Church Councillors, and many members of the Parish who attended. Refreshments were served in the church.

During the year, there was one funeral, 3 internment of ashes, two weddings and three baptisms.

We are also members of Christians together Bude and Stratton (CTB&S) which brings all denominations of churches together to celebrate their faith.

Everyone is most welcome to pop into the church, which is always open for private prayer. Come to attend a service, to admire the amazing building, or to explore our beautiful church-yard. St Swithin's has just received an Eco Church Bronze Award for Creation Care and conservation from A Rocha UK, and we are now working towards our Silver!!

Maggie Cooper

May 2024

Churchwarden, St Swithin's Church Launcells