

Churchwarden's Annual Report, All Saints, Cadeby, May 2024

How quickly a year passes, and, as always, it's been a busy year (May 2023 – 2024) in Cadeby with lots of ups and downs. We continue our mission to remain open every day, welcoming all and providing a calm, reflective space in our church and also the churchyard.

We managed to hold all our usual services, except for Easter, when there was a Benefice Service at St Peter's.

The 2024 task list from our Quinquennial Inspection now has some ticks next to it and more tasks are planned before the end of the year.

The work needed to repair a plaster fall above the door has been given Diocese approval, but it's been made safe.

Our churchyard has had some attention this last year and looks so much better. A tree survey highlighted some arborial work and a village work party was able to trim branches that were growing too near the church, alongside reducing the box tree, clearing ivy and trimming brambles etc.

We have also cleared a row of gravestones on one of the boundaries and moved and displayed some free standing gravestones from the 1700s.

Sadly, we've had more than our fair share of funerals and interments:

Terence Mutlow

Richard Evans

Roy Morris

David Herbert

Pamela Mountford

On a more positive note, Arabella Nelson was baptised in December.

We held our annual Fete and, as always, the village community pulled together. This effort was appreciated even more so, as our usual 'ringmaster', Claire, was unable to lead this year. Unfortunately, we landed

on the only wet and windy day that week but we still raised in excess of £4,500, which was a fantastic result.

Louis, Jane, Joby and Clare have now decided to step away as Fete hosts. We fully understand their decision and appreciate their generosity and support over the years.

This year will see the beginnings of a new era for the Fete and a change of site, courtesy of Market Bosworth Rugby Club. We are aiming to do most of what we normally do at this new venue, with Rachel co-ordinating. The date will be Saturday 10th August .

Christmas is always busy in Cadeby, with our church being at the centre of events. After our Darkness to Light service, we held our annual Christmas Lights Switch On.

Then Santa visited and distributed gifts to all the children and we held our village Christmas party in the church , which is always well attended. 2023 culminated in our Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Although we didn't have an Easter Service in Cadeby, we felt that it was important to have an event of some kind. On the Saturday afternoon we had an Easter get-together with hot cross buns and an Easter egg hunt for the children. It was a sunny afternoon and around 30 people came and sat in the churchyard, chatting and enjoying refreshments. It was just what I'd hoped it would be!

Looking ahead to the rest of this year, we know it won't be easy whilst a new incumbent is sought and we acknowledge all the work done by Reverend Ann, Colleen and Jane. We also appreciate the advice and support given by our benefice administrator Jane Farmer.

The issues for us in Cadeby are:

- Encouraging more people to attend our services
- Involving more children in activities
- Engaging more people with the DCC

Our positives going forward are:

- Seeing more villagers involved in helping in and around the church
- Knowing that our church is recognised as a welcoming, calm space
- The constant presence of fresh flowers in our church, provided by villagers on an organised rota
- A very supportive DCC

We are looking forward to sharing these thoughts and writing our Parish Profile which will be included as part of a job description for a new incumbent.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of our church!

Janet Hicklin, Churchwarden