

Chediston Annual PCC Report

The annual meetings of the PCC took place on the 3rd April. Sally Aldous and Julia Morten were re-elected as Churchwardens and PCC members elected 'en bloc'. All officers (secretary, treasurer etc) agreed to carry on for the next 12 months.

A special mention and 'thank you' to people who have helped the PCC in so many ways was recorded in the minutes. Three new members were welcomed on to the Electoral Roll bringing the total up to 26. Reports were read out and Edward's view of the year was optimistic and well received. The Secretary, Jane Burroughes has copies of all reports so do contact her if you would like to see them. The PCC have been happy to welcome regular and visiting clergy whose addresses have been thought provoking and entertaining, and although the regular weekly congregation has been small, St. Mary's Chediston has been a worshipful and happy place to be on a Sunday. All festival services were well supported by the whole community.

The need for fund raising has been huge. As well as the usual events towards general funds, a Scarecrow Exhibition, Auction of Promises and 'Jane's Junk' raised money for the Church tower repairs. An appeal fund for these repairs was set up in August, administered by Jane Burroughes who contacted just about anyone she could think of who would be sympathetic. At the time of writing the amount in this account (which includes £9550 from charitable trusts) is £19456.89. Interestingly this figure represents 16% donated by people who live in Chediston and 84% from outside. On top of this £18,500 has been promised for the tower repair, payable once work begins, from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Suffolk Churches Capital Fund and the National Churches Trust. A full list of 'who gave what' can be obtained from Jane.

Veronica Downing and the bells restoration committee have been raising money for the bells since 2004 and funds have been added to the existing Belfry Fund. An Old Time Farming Day and Dance/BBQ were held in 2006, the proceeds from which together with donations and sales of earrings have added to the fund which at the time of writing amounts to £22871.12. On top of this £9250 has been promised from the Suffolk Guild of Ringers (£6000) and the Manifold Trust of the Central Council of Bellringers (£3250) and there are promises of a further £13,500 principally from the Rogers family, payable once the work begins. In January this year Veronica and Jane completed a joint application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to try and secure the balance of money needed for both projects. They are delighted to learn that £40,100 has been awarded, half of which is payable now.

Fund raising in Chediston will continue until the PCC are happy that sufficient funds are to hand for the repairs to the tower and restoration of the bells, allowing for any unforeseen eventualities.

Further details about the Heritage Lottery Fund award appear in this month's Team Times.