

Easton Parish Council AGM 2025

Thanks for inviting us to report to this meeting.

Our church continues to provide services, usually twice a month but there are more Benefice services these days.

Revd Ann works 4 days a week so her work has to be concentrated into those days.

Last year there was one baptism in the church but no weddings and, thankfully, no funerals.

As you know the East Suffolk Council is only cutting the grass in the churchyard once a year. We are happy to do our bit for "feeding the bees" but cut the area next to the path to keep it tidy and more welcoming. Recently the crinkle-crinkle wall has been repaired by the Council (hence the Portaloo at the gate).

We again paid our full Parish Share for Easton in 2024 of £6,000. The reduced amount is due to having a priest for reduced hours. The church receives no central funding from the Diocese or the Government. People often have the idea that the church is rich, but this Diocese has no historical funds (it is only just over 100 years old). Every parish or benefice (ours is 7 churches) has to pay for its own priest, his/her stipend, training, pension and housing, as well as central administration. It's a big ask in small parishes. The training budget also includes safeguarding training for all (which has been a hot topic this year) and training for lay elders and churchwardens.

We have recently received a bequest which is stipulated to be used for repairs and improvements to the church (not regular expenses).

Easton Primary School has been able to have its usual Harvest, Christmas and Easter services and it was really great to have them and hear their lovely singing. They also had a candlelit concert in February this year. We treasure our links with the school and Revd Ann is going in to the school once a month to do an assembly.

We have a Benefice magazine which is sent online but a few paper copies are left in the church. And, of course, we have our wonderful Village News (not produced by the church).

May 2025