St John the Evangelist Church report 2020/2021

Services during 2020 were very limited due to the lockdown restrictions and our church was closed until 2nd August. During this time we were only able to hold 22 services and in fact we were unable to hold any services from Boxing day 26th December 2020 until 2nd April 2021. Attendance was very restricted and we only had 143 people in total attending these services.

Also during 2020 we were unable to hold special services where attendance is usually high. These services included Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Day, Rogation Sunday, Pet Service and Summer Evening hymns. However, we were able to hold 3 special services which were Remembrance Sunday, a Carol service (with no singing) and a Christmas Day service. Normally these services are very well supported but attendance during this period was very low.

We were able to keep the church open on some Sundays during 2020/2021 for Private Prayer during which in total 9 people took up this opportunity. There was an organised cycle ride held on Saturday 12th September 2020 where 6 of our villagers took turns to man the church.

For the first three months of 2021 no services were held, but with services being able to restart on 2nd April 2021 we have been able to hold 5 services which have included Good Friday, Easter Day and 2 special services held in remembrance of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

It is unfortunate that some of our parishioners have 'stayed away', self-isolating or just got out of the routine of attending Sunday services. But as the lockdown situation has started to ease I am hopeful that attendance at St John will increase, especially when once again we are able to sing Praise to our Lord, even if this is with the continued use of masks.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped me to keep our church open. We have church cleaners, flower arrangers, music co-ordinators and bell ringers who have been a blessing to our community.

God bless you all

Jean Rockett
Licenced Lay Minister