

St. Peter's Report

If there was a weather report to discuss what life was like for St. Peter's in 2021 I think the headline would be "Sunshine with showers".

Firstly the showers. Covid still played a massive part in our year which had a huge impact on pretty much all that we did. A massive surge in Covid cases caused by the Delta variant meant that St. Peter's went back to online services only for much of the first three months of 2021 and even when we returned it was for a while with fairly stringent restrictions. Much of what we love about St. Peter's family life, both on Sundays and during the rest of the week, didn't really fully start to open until September. Just when we thought that the vaccine role out had spared us any further headaches an Omicron wave hit just in time for Christmas. While we were still, thankfully, able to keep doing things in person some people understandably stayed away either through caution or for legally having to isolate over Christmas (including, much to his chagrin, the rector...)

However there were some bright spots. Things did start to spring forth once more. The groups we used to do came back. We started to get back into the rhythms of parish life including doing some of the more major festivals including in person Remembrance services for the first time in two years. The bright spots were also often individuals in the church family and the wider Cringleford community doing so much to love their neighbour. We are hugely thankful for all the hard and often unseen work – the care, support and love shown by everyone. Indeed it was great to be able to organize a 'Thank You' event in the summer to recognize some of those who did so much during the first parts of the pandemic.

There were more bright spots as well. We kept going with things online. Our Sunday morning services are now much better broadcast than they ever were with my cobbled together laptop set up thanks to the technical gifts of Roger Danes and the financial gifts of an anonymous donor. It was wonderful to be able to expand, improve and commit to our streamed services. We were online again for another wonderful nativity and Open The Book managed to do a one off video for the school so those leaving, staff and students, could see one more Bible story acted out by our wonderful cast. Online Lent courses and school assemblies now almost seem normal but sometimes we need to remember this in it self is a sign of just how much the world has changed.

One things that has changed in 2021 is that Neil Henery left Cringleford Primary School after a decade at the helm and an enormous amount of good work done. Mrs. Julia Humphrey took up the reins in September and it has been a real joy to begin to work with her as we continue to have strong links with our local school. We also have had people join St. Peter's as part of their training for the ordained ministry. It was wonderful to have Sam Luscombe on a month's placement in the summer and fantastic to welcome Fiona Munn as she began a longer placement here with us.

We are now able to continue to serve the community having restarted our lunch club, Memory Lane Café and Cringletots back again while partnering with our good friends at Cringleford Hub to support the whole of the Cringleford Community. We have continued to be there for anyone in this community at the best and the worst times of their life.

We are always incredibly thankful for all those members of our church family and wider community who help St. Peter's continue to show love and care to all. We would particularly like to thank the council for their grant towards the up keep of the churchyard which has enabled our wonderful churchyard team to continue to make it a place that the whole village can enjoy.

Graham

Reverend Graham Wilkins
Rector of Cringleford and Colney