**St Michael's Coxwold**

**Church Warden's annual report**

It has been a challenging year given the combination of a Vacancy with no Rector and the Covid restrictions. But the arrival of Revd. Katie Franks in December and the easing of the Covid constraints make for a positive outlook.
The building is 600 years old; this anniversary has been marked by the publication of the new guide book which was written by the Coxwold History Society
Our congregation has declined due to Covid and the existence of on-line services, which are of course a huge asset for people who cannot get to church but a potential problem if they result in a decline in people joining for worship together.
This decline has been in part offset by the couples joining us from far and wide as they prepare for their weddings at Coxwold and also the number of people who visit the church casually or for a time of quiet reflection which has increased possibly due to Covid.

We urgently need anyone who is interested to help with bell ringing particularly for weddings and funerals for which they will get paid and also for the maintenance of the building and churchyard which need a lot of attention.
In conjunction with the National Park we have embarked on an experiment to encourage biodiversity by reducing the frequency of grass cutting within two areas of the churchyard, its hoped that this will encourage wild flowers butterflies and insects.

The survival of the church at Coxwold is dependent on people using it for services, so do join us; you will now find a warm welcome at shorter services in modern English with coffee afterwards, this is in addition to the more traditional forms of worship which will also continue to be part our worship.

Chris Stratton
Churchwarden May 2022