

## St Stephen's Church – Pauline Crampin

### i) St. Stephen's Church - Pauline Crampin 2025-26

1) Thank you for grant of £1,500 from Parish Council used to maintain churchyard by mowing and path maintenance. The rest of the work is done by church volunteers working on 2 organised mornings.

2) Two very successful outreach projects were the church yard summer art workshops for all ages. All free.

A new outreach was Souper Tuesday, an opportunity for villagers to meet socialise and share a simple meal of soup and cake in the

3) Church Christmas active crafting in Village Hall which included making angels, hanging and table decorations, festive cards and decorations and lots more, was also extremely popular.

A new Easter craft workshop was held on 31st March in the Village Hall. All free but donations were generous.

4) Great attendance at special celebrations of Easter, Christmas, Remembrance and Rogation. During the Rogation Walk in the last 9 years the church has planted nearly 22 young trees around the village. This year the Carol service was much enhanced by the Pop Up Choir. All of the organisation was done by the congregation as we still have no vicar.

5) The Major Waterloo Project of the toilet, small servery and 2 sets of fitted cupboards were completed on 7th April at a cost of £82,000 exVAT.

6) All the village was invited to celebrations in the church on 5<sup>th</sup> 6th July. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the project. On the Saturday we organised a 10K run ending in the church yard. Fion Ogg led the Blessing service and Suzanne led the pop up choir who excelled themselves with a rewrite of ABBAs Waterloo. A free delicious hog roast and bubbly followed the service.

As a result of the building work a new bell rope was required. During this it was identified that the wooden bell mounting needed repairing. More funds having to be found.

7) Although we are still without a vicar the church is thriving thanks to lots of people generously contributing their time and money. A more recent addition is the home bible study group and the

Ladies Saturday coffee and chat group whilst the men follow more active pursuits.

8) Anyone who would like to join in or help with churchyard clean-up we do it twice a year, church cleaning rota, flower arranging, all are welcome.

9) Jam Club is not running at present as all the existing children have grown up and we have no replacements at present.

10) The grocery sharing box continues to be used in church porch but spare food is taken to Stamford food bank. We will consider advertising on social media.

11) The pictures from the photo competition completed in August 2024 are displayed in church on AV system for public viewing after services and events