

ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report to the Orford Annual Parish Meeting – *19th May 2021*

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

All Sunday Services and weekday events, including the Monday Tea Room and Wednesday Lunch sessions were cancelled from 14th March 2020 within Government Covid guidelines and restrictions. To keep the 'congregation' in touch, weekly letters, Sunday service, Psalm diary and activity sheets were posted out or sent via email to those able to receive. We were also encouraged to view the Circuit web site *Methodistic.org.uk* for live or printed services, 'Thought for the Day', book reviews and much more

After the first Lock down was lifted Sunday services were resumed from 4th July within strict Covid guidelines. Week day activities recommenced from 2nd August with the exception of the Wednesday Lunch sessions due to the two metre distancing rule – replacing these with repeat of the 'Tea Room.'

All this was put on hold for the 2nd lock down in November, recommencing from Sunday 6th December through 3rd January this year. After this, once again the decision was made locally to suspend all service and activities due to personal Covid positive testing, although within the 3rd lock down it has not been a requirement to close places of worship/Sunday services.

We have now been back for 10.30am Sunday service since 14th March and for outside seating for the Tea Room (Monday & Wednesday) since 12th April.

Although it has been difficult, as it has for many, if not all, we have been able to celebrate the great events of Harvest, Advent and Christmas and recently Holy week and Easter with much joy. With singing on hold, and continues to be, recorded songs and music enhance the worship.

The sending out of weekly 'Keeping in Touch' mailings continues to all our members and friends who attend services from Woodbridge, Bromswell, Wickham Market, Framlingham, Campsea Ashe and Leiston as well as Orford & Sudbourne.

We have carried out maintenance on the building/premises/grounds were resources have allowed and thanks to the generosity of our people we have been able to fulfil our commitment for the ministry and charitable giving.

We respond to 'Our Calling' in that there is always a welcome to share with us services and events. A forward notice: The 32nd Annual Quay Service (hopefully) will take place on Sunday 1st August at 6pm unless restrictions (Government or New Orford Town Trust say otherwise).

Stephen Caley Orford Methodist Church