

Stedham with Iping Annual Parish Meeting
29th May 2024

STEDHAM WITH IPING CHURCH WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024 FOR SI APM

1. The Reverend Caleb Collins, Rector of Stedham cum Heyshott 1826 -1879.

I think it important that we should put on record that our Rector Caleb Collins did not commit suicide as written in the Stedham and Iping book published in 2000.

According to his death certificate, he died of “natural decay” at the age of 79 in the presence of Caroline Boxall on 8 September 1879.

In 1865 he conducted the burial of Richard Cobden MP at West Lavington Church near Dunford House.

The Collins Club in Stedham was opened in 1884 and named after the parish’s much loved and at 53 years, longest-serving rector.

However, it was his successor the Reverend Henry Edwards who was sadly found hanging in the belfry on 1 April 1882.

The information has come about through Dawn Cansfield’s work on the graveyard survey. They have recently discovered a brick covered and lined vault on the east side of the churchyard.

2. Church services

We had very good congregations for our Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas services

The stand-out service of 2023 was our Songs of Praise for the Coronation of King Charles III with some wonderfully apt readings including Christopher Robin and Alice visiting Buckingham Palace.

The attendance at John Hills’ funeral was phenomenal at 330+ We are certainly going to miss John on Remembrance Sunday this year and thank him for all the years he organised the Act of Remembrance.

3. Thanks so much to everyone for helping at St James

I have counted over 75 people who voluntarily help us, in multiple ways, to keep the Churches going. And we are very grateful to SIPC for its help with looking after the new graveyard. All parishioners have a right to be buried in the graveyard.

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MIDHURST AREA CYCLING

MAC is delighted that the cycleway from Stedham to Midhurst has been improved by the widened pavement and new A272 40 mph speed limit from Midhurst to West of the Woolbeding turning. This makes it much safer for our parish children to bike to town. We now have to work on improving the routes from the Half Moon to the Grange and to the Rother College from our direction. Work is continuing on delivering the Jubilee Path section of the Midhurst Greenway which will eventually go via the Wharf and Ruins out to Easebourne with a spur down the Causeway to get into North Street and the Rother College.

JC wondered if SIPC had considered applying for a 50 mph limit from the new Woolbeding 40mph all the way over to the 40 mph limit at Trotton. This might dissuade the noisy motorbikes using the road as a racetrack with consequent noise.....