

## **Parham recorder's report for 2025**

An exceptionally dry Spring resulted in reduced crop yields of half a ton per acre and poor straw quality; combining had to begin early.

In his capacity as Councillor, John Patrick oversaw construction of a leaky dam system in The Gull, to reduce threats of flooding.

Essex and Suffolk Water Board laid a water main from Benhall to Framlingham that went across Home Farm.

On North Green, a festive community party celebrated V.E. Day. In July, open gardens at Parham Hall, Church Farm and North Green Farm raised over 3,000 pounds for the church and St Elizabeth Hospice. Sandra Buckle held a successful plant sale for the hospice and John Bradfield's coffee mornings raised money for the church.

A free beer and burger event in Church Meadow on 16th August kicked off fund raising to replace the covering of the roof of the church nave. This brought in donations of 9,000 pounds, recorded on a fund-raising "thermometer" placed at the intersection of The Street and the road to Framlingham. Frustrating work began to identify and secure substantial funds held by the Diocese for repairs to Parham church, still not resolved at the time of writing. Heavy rain on 14th November poured through the church roof; Michael Block rounded up a team of village men who put down a tarpaulin as a very temporary fix, which allowed a Christmas service to be held attended by over a hundred people, a record for recent years.

Mrs Eunice Hanna moved to a nursing home in the Spring and put the Old Vicarage on the market, which sold quickly. Botany Farm came on the market and the Old School House and Teachers House were also for sale. Work finally started on Mill Green House, after an expensive three year battle with Planning. Work on the Old Parsonage halted because a cart house had to be built for bats. The old radar building, built in 1943, was converted to residential use.

Village Hall activities continued apace, Friday bar nights a firm fixture of village life, Sandra Poacher and her team providing meals. After eighteen years' service, Paul Goring stepped down as Village Hall chairman, succeeded by Alan Gray. Canon Deirdre Parmenter, who began her vicar training at Parham thirty years ago and has "filled in" at services countless times, retired as a priest, to everyone's regret. John Adams succeeded John Bradfield as church elder, leading services of morning and evening prayer.

Mrs Myrle Gray, for many years the matriarch of the parish, passed away on 20th September, age 94. Small in stature but immensely able, her role in running the family farm and parish affairs has been incalculable. The church was filled to capacity on 1st November for her funeral and interment; thanksgiving for her remarkable life was palpable as she went out to the strains of The Beautiful Blue Danube.