

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 9TH MAY 2022

The Parish of St John the Baptist Ripe with St Bartholomew Chalvington

The Church of England's provision for worship in Ripe and Chalvington has for many years now been arranged under one ecclesiastical unit consisting of the churches of Laughton, Ripe and Chalvington with one priest covering the three churches. However this has involved working with two Parochial Church Councils (one at Laughton and one at Ripe with Chalvington) with two sets of churchwardens, treasurers, and administration.

It has been a pleasure for me since my arrival to see how these two parishes have generally worked together in providing worship and other church activities and a frustration for all this to have to be duplicated organizationally.

As from the beginning of May 2022 this has now been resolved by the Church Commissioners by creating the new single parish of 'Laughton, Ripe and Chalvington' with just the one Church Council governing it. We shall now, all the more easily, plan our future activities in presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the residents in the three villages and in Deanland, together as one church.

Covid lockdowns and restrictions have not prevented us from being able to keep our churches open with suitable facilities available and even when church services were not possible we were able to provide streamed services which were accessed from as far afield as Europe and Africa!

We shall provide a 'Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee' suitable for all residents to attend on Sunday June 5th at 10.30am in Ripe church.

The Revd. Geoffrey Smith, Rector of Laughton, Ripe and Chalvington

2nd May, 2022