

"The Church of Our Lady & St Ignatius has seen several changes over the past year. Our popular priest, Fr Keith Mitchell, announced his retirement in September and left a few weeks later, much to our sadness. However, we were very pleased Fr Colin Groombridge arrived shortly afterwards from Torquay, and we are delighted to welcome him to Chideock and help him to settle in.

Amongst several funerals at the church, we especially remember Helena Pilatowicz, mother of Anna Dunn, who died at the incredible age of 99. She had led a fascinating life and was a stalwart parishioner at our church and is much missed.

Although only one wedding took place in our church last summer (though we have six booked in this year), there was a steady stream of visitors throughout the year, including during the annual Dorset Arcitectural Week in September. Also in September we again sponsored Richard Benjamin cycling to raise money for both Chideock churches in Ride and Stride week, and we thank him for his continuing heroic efforts. In March this year a large group of sixformers visited from Leweston School which we hope will be an annual event.

Numbers to the church and museum are ever increasing, and we welcome all who come. Comments in our visitors book show their appreciation and delight in discovering this very special and beautiful church.

Finally we are very pleased that a handrail has been installed on the church path by local ironsmith Bryan Wrixon. This will be a great help for many people and hopefully encourage those who find the path difficult to negotiate, especially in bad weather.

A reminder that the church is open every day of the year 10-4pm thanks to Steve Warre, and closed by a small rota group of kind parishioners. The village museum is also open at these times with its fascinating display of village life and the Martyrs history."