

St Michael's Church, Axmouth



Axmouth is a small village located on the Axe estuary, with its wealth of birds and other wildlife. It is a World Heritage site being part of the Jurassic coast; within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and including sites of Special Scientific Interest. It has a harbour and beach at the mouth of the river a mile away.

Axmouth is a quiet, rural community with a population of 520 comprising some 215 dwellings of which 37 are listed.

The village has the church, two pubs, a village hall and a seasonal caravan site with a small shop. There is no school so village children are educated outside the parish. The congregation therefore tends to be older.

The Church Building

The Church of St Michael is essentially Norman with 13th, 14th and 15th century additions. There are some attractive stained-glass windows of the Arts and Crafts era, depicting local rural scenes, and also some important medieval wall paintings.

The last Quinquennial Review identified essential repairs to the masonry and the rainwater disposal system of the tower. This work has now been completed with money raised by the Friends of the Church.

The Life of the Church

We are a welcoming, outward-looking Church, very much connected to the community:

- 1) Worship.** We hold intimate, inclusive, Bible-themed services every Sunday morning and on special weekdays, with Communion twice a month. There's coffee after each service. We also offer a weekly Bible and Prayer Group and a monthly traditional Communion.
- 2) Music.** We worship with organ, piano, other instruments or recorded accompaniment. We also have a small community choir who gather to sing in the Church on special occasions.
- 3) Wednesday Get-Together.** This is a social opportunity every week in the village hall with coffee, tea, biscuits and chat. It's run by the Church with helpers from the wider community.
- 4) Friendship Lunches.** These give a chance for single people of retirement age to share a meal and companionship at the village's Ship Inn on the first Monday of the month.
- 5) The Friends of Axmouth Church** was set up among the wider community in 2011 to raise funds for the fabric of the Church, which it achieves through frequent social events.
- 6) Communication.** We produce a quarterly magazine which aims to reflect the life of the village. We also have an informative church website and a community Facebook page.
- 7) Links with the wider world.** We run regular events to raise funds for charities at home and abroad. We have strong links with SEAN (Study by Extension for All Nations).



A Community of Prayer and Peace