

# **APCM Sunday 19th May 2024**

## **Churchwardens' Report**

This past year has been very eventful, not having an incumbent has meant trying to keep all services running whilst making no changes, and trying to balance all the needs of the church when there is no incumbent to give spiritual leadership. Despite these challenges the parish has come together, the PCC is working well and with the support of the diocese and 3D Coaching (an external mentoring company) a more cohesive and supportive body, engaging in the needs of both churches, its congregations, the parish centre and all the services offered.

It is very important to mention that the services offered throughout 2023/24 would not have been possible without the support of Rev Anthony Giles, Rev Don Dowling, Readers Karen Williams, Helen Giles, and Jackie Halter. They have been instrumental in supporting the parish and its needs through-out this period, and our thanks and gratitude go out to them all.

## **St. George's Church Roof**

We have had a couple of leaks in church from the roof and this will need to be investigated but it only happens on days with heavy rainfall and high winds.

## **St George's Spire**

The Spire was painted by Rodells in August 2023 and should be good for the next 10 years, the works were identified under the quinquennial and are a requirement of our insurance. The works were completed on budget and in a timely manner and the spire is a beacon of the community and everyone in Letchworth knows our church by its spire.

## **Parish Centre**

The parish centre has had some works done to it over the past year (new energy efficient lighting and emergency lights) and is in good shape for the next 12 months, a small amount of maintenance is required (painting of the hall wall where some of the paint has flaked away etc...), but the centre is well utilised and continues to be a valuable asset for the parish and the community.

## **2 Common View**

The property has needed some work carried out to make it lettable and has cost us some money over the past 12 months, but it has continued to be let and is currently a good revenue stream. The property is let via a management company that looks after it and the tenancies, this is expected to continue for the remainder of 2024 and well into 2025.

## **Telephones and Wi Fi**

We have now been upgraded by BT to a VOIP telephone solution, this has caused an issue with the Parish centre Wi-Fi, however the church Wi-Fi signal is more than adequate to offer coverage to the church and parish centre whilst this issue is investigated.

## **St. George's Garden**

The garden is one of the first things that people see when they come to our church and we are looking for some additional volunteers to help maintain the beds, shrubs and keep the lawn tidy, we have contacted a company to repair the walls on the driveway and fit bollards to protect them from future damage and this work should be carried out over the summer.

## **Parish Administrator**

With the fast-approaching installation date of our new vicar and him taking the spiritual reins of the parish we are looking to support him and his ministry in this parish by adding some administrative support and therefore Diane De Jager will be taking on more responsibilities to be our part time administrator and increase the important role she already fulfils within the administration of our church.

## **St Nicholas Church**

Remarkably we have not experienced any serious issues with St. Nicholas Church, however we did have a wasp infestation during the summer which did cause some issues with services, but thanks must be given to John Smith and Mr Graham Hilton for assisting in the removal of the wasp nest and ensuring his daughter's wedding went off without a hitch. We must also acknowledge the work of the Friends of St. Nicholas in maintaining the integrity of the church and to Michael Clements for ensuring the graveyard grass is cut throughout the summer, if you could give an hour of your time each week during the summer please speak with Michael.

## **Church Wardens**

The Church wardens are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the Sunday Wardens who help ensure the smooth running of services and other tasks around church. We are very keen for more people to volunteer as Sunday wardens and even step up as a Deputy or Assistant Wardens. These are not onerous roles and if you feel called to join the 'Warden's Team' please speak with one of us.

This year the wardens would like to thank Keith Taylor for taking a photograph of everything the Parish owns (within both churches) to allow us to put together an electronic log of all our valuables and assets, this is to make one job the wardens need to do every year significantly easier and more efficient. Each year the wardens carryout an inventory check within both churches of all our valuables, fixed and portable furniture, fixtures and fittings, vestments, robes, music, hymn books and anything else the Parish owns relating to the churches and its services. This is normally a matter a wandering around church with a paper list looking for everything and this can be a time-consuming matter, especially if you do not know what something looks like, thank you Keith for all your help.

## **Clergy**

As Church Wardens we want to place on record our admiration and appreciation for the work of Rev. Anthony Giles and Rev. Donald Dowling. This year has been a real challenge for them both. They have ensured services have continued and considering the number of services at Christmas and Easter nothing has been missed or left out. We can be sure that our church would have been a totally different place over the past 12 months if they had not stepped up, thank you both.

Neil Greatorex & Ros Pratt