

St Mary's, Chesterton - Annual report

It gives us great pleasure to submit a report to the Parish Council regarding St Mary's.

The church is at the heart of the village (both geographic and social) and hopes to be for many years to come.

We have our problems with leaking roof, clock repairs and of course the ongoing saga of the re-order (toilet, servery etc). These problems will be overcome at some time but financially we are, as are many, in a fairly poor state.

That said during the year we have had many events to bolster our finances and to engender a sense of community - Fete, Big Breakfast, pop up shop etc. We see these events as outreach to the community, promoting our existence and, of course, raising money.

Day to day worship continues with a very vibrant Young Families service once a month, weekly prayer meetings and every couple of months or so going to the Community Centre for Café Church. We like to see ourselves as a very welcoming Church to all young and old. Bringing little ones to the Church is encouraged and it doesn't matter what noise they make, although the Childrens' Corner is a useful distraction. There is also a strong link with the school, both in worship at the school and use of the Church for services. Likewise, our link with Bruern Abbey and their use of the building on a regular basis.

The Church is open every day and there is now Wi-Fi and free tea and coffee for anyone. The Churchyard is also open, and we consider it a great asset to the beauty of the village. To this end we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support in keeping the grass cut. This year we also had the added benefit of Community Service people working in the Churchyard generally tidying up.

We certainly look forward to continuing links with the Parish council to our mutual benefits.

David Attwood

Andrew Thomas

Churchwardens