

St Mary's Church, Chesterton

We are pleased to submit this report to the Parish Council in respect of St Mary's Church, Chesterton.

Churchyard and Environment

We remain extremely grateful to the Parish Council for its continued support in maintaining the churchyard. As the church occupies a central position within the village, it is important that the churchyard is presented to a high standard. Thank you for overseeing this work.

We have also set aside dedicated areas to support biodiversity, including the use of a section of the churchyard as a wildflower meadow, the installation of swift boxes, and the creation of a wildflower, bee-friendly bed, planted by the children.

Building and Facilities

Internally, the church has been repainted, giving the building a refreshed appearance and improving internal light levels through greater reflection. The organ has been replaced with a modern electronic instrument. While we recognise that this change prompted a range of views, the ability to use recorded accompaniments will be a significant benefit, particularly given the ongoing difficulty in securing organists.

Following a recent meeting with the architect, plans have been confirmed for the installation of a server and a toilet (with appropriate soundproofing). The remaining challenge is the funding required to deliver these improvements, particularly in light of the significant costs anticipated for essential roof works. In addition, a new shed in the churchyard has increased storage capacity and enabled the interior to be kept noticeably neater and more orderly.

Worship and Community Life

The worshipping life of the church remains central to our work. Regular services continue to be supported by a small but committed congregation, and our special services are consistently well attended.

Once again, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support.

David Attwood

Andrew Thomas

Churchwardens