

## Yaxham Annual Parish Meeting 26 May 2022

### Report from St Peter's Church

Our worship pattern is currently two Sundays per month, with a view to return to a weekly Sunday service in the future. Coming out of the Pandemic attendance has dropped and a regular congregation on a Sunday is now between 8-10 people. We are enjoying being able to sing unmasked. As a benefice we meet daily on Zoom for Morning prayer and offer prayers for our community of Yaxham on a Tuesday.

We take weekly Collective worship services at school, and the pupils walk down to the church for a service each half-term.

2021 was a year when we said goodbye to long-standing villagers and so to honour these folk, we held a special service of remembrance on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are currently seeing an increase in requests for Baptism and Blessing of Children services which is *good news* for us all as we welcome these families into the church.

We have just had our latest Quinquennial inspection of the church and churchyard in which the architect helps us to identify and prioritise what needs to be done to maintain the Fabric of the building. We received a generous legacy last year which will help us to progress repairs to the South Aisle roof and address damage caused by jackdaws, who like to make holes in the flint walls just under the eaves.

We contract out the grass cutting for the older part of the churchyard with the rest been mowed by volunteers.

We have a special service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> we have the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Produce and Craft show in the Village Hall. We have already started to receive entry forms for the day.

The church is open daily, and my door is always open too.

### Townlands Charity

At the end of last year, I was asked to join the Townlands charity as a church representative, and we have had one meeting since I joined. So, whilst I am not sure if I am best placed to give a report here goes. It is brief. Having discussed spent time viewing the trust deeds for the two charities we have a plan to amalgamate the Fuel Allotments Charity and Townlands Charity to run as a single charity known as the Townlands Charity. The Parish Council have given the amalgamation their blessing, so the next step is to get approval from the Charity Commission.

Application forms for small grants are now available and we have a new email address.

The trustees look forward to being able to apply monies available where there is a need.

### Enriching society and strengthening community

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010 I had the privilege of conducted a Thanksgiving service for Ian and Sue to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. As part of my address I chose to use words from the marriage service preface which sets out what the values of marriage are. Marriage '*enriches society and strengthens community*' – Ian and Sue, we thank you for all that you have given of yourselves to do just that amongst us. We at St. Peter's offer you our heartfelt thanks for your service to this village. Every blessing to you both.

Sally Thurgill, Assistant Priest Mattishall and Tudd Valley benefice.