

St Peter's Church: a situation report

Early in 2020, our Church was on track – alongside its regular pattern of worship and work in the community (especially with the School) - to deal with some repairs needed to the stonework in the porch, and to repair the lychgate. The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) was 'fully staffed', and our teams of supporters were working alongside it, as usual, to ensure that the Church was routinely cleaned, that flowers were looked after, that the bells were rung ... and so on. Because we had foreseen the need to carry out the works on the fabric, the necessary financial reserves were in place.

And then came Covid. To start with, the challenge was to provide regular worship ... which we have now largely resolved by instituting a pattern of outdoor worship at the lychgate, where we need not wear masks, and where we can sing together. And we are fortunate that we have had no Covid deaths in the village, and have been able as a Church and as a community to hold appropriate funeral services for those who have died during the pandemic.

But as we now plan for a full re-opening of Church life and service – a) we have lost the services of both of our Churchwardens (resignation from office);

b) the PCC has lost some members (resignation, death, leaving the village);

c) our bell-ringing team is no longer up to its desired strength; and

d) we have, of course, been unable to continue with a regular church cleaning rota etc.

What we had neither expected nor planned for was the failure of our church heating system with the total breakdown of the boiler (which we now know was installed no later than 1983!). But as this note is published, the work on the porch stonework has been completed despite Covid; the delivery of a new boiler is awaited; and oak has

been ordered for the rebuilding of the lychgate. So what we now need to do is to rebuild and re-activate – and that is where we need your help.

Although we are, strictly speaking, required to have at least one churchwarden in post, we know that filling that role may take a little while – and the PCC has that in hand. As soon as we can routinely access the Church, we shall bring the cleaning rota back to life, and so on – but what we currently need are:-

1. a few more bell-ringers;
2. one or two volunteers to join the PCC; and
3. someone to take responsibility for the management & publication of the Church diary and services rota.

If you think that you could – and would be prepared to – take on one of these roles, please have a word with any member of the PCC – and please don't blink if one of us approaches you directly with a “Had you thought about ... ?” question.

Thank you.

Asby PCC

The current lay members of the PCC are John & Pat Bevan, Helen Cooper, Pam Cowey, Peter Miller, Karen Royle, & Susan Walker.