

Parochial Church Council Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Since the last parish meeting, the Church of St Mary & St John's here in Lamyatt has not been idle. Incorporated into our normal service pattern, we have offered a number of special services. Some of these were in response to national occasions- the Platinum Jubilee, Thanksgiving for the late queen, the Coronation; also a local occasion - the recognition of our Thankful Village status; and for the church year - Lammas in the barn, the pet service, Carol service, harvest festival. We have also been the venue for one wedding and two funerals. I think you could say that support has been mixed. The harvest lunch, once so popular, was abandoned, due in part to lack of interest, but also because the PCC needs extra members to spread the load. We are going to try again this year with a lunch of ploughmen and puddings. We do need your support to keep going and any help offered will undoubtedly be snapped up. So dates for the diary: Harvest – first Sunday in October, which is 1st. Also Lammas in the barn first Sunday in August. Do come along.

We have been so very grateful that Lyn Goat has taken on the duties of the Treasurer, but we struggle on with only one church warden, which really does mean that Ann shoulders more than she should on her own. Ann has agreed to do two more years, then is retiring. Full stop. What will the people of Lamyatt want to happen then? Something to think about. For this reason the one word that I would use to describe the church at the moment is 'vulnerable'. Nevertheless, we carry on in the hope that someone will step forward before it is too late.

During this past year we have had the 5-yearly survey completed on the building – itself quite an expense. Work has been completed on some necessary repairs to the retaining wall around the churchyard. More work was needed on that than we had anticipated so costs rose.

Regular coffee mornings continue to be held on the first Saturday of the month and enjoyed by those who come. The table for spare plants or produce has again been set up in the bus shelter. Some fundraising ideas are being mulled over. How I would love by this time next year to be able to drop the word 'vulnerable'. The basic message is support your church: the PCC is doing the very best we can but we need people to help!

Jen Richards

