

St Peter's Report to the Parish Council

This year after a building inspection which highlights all the problems with the building and church yard we are:

1. Replacing the tiles on the roof at the east end of the church
2. Looking to repair the wall along the road and the church yard north wall tiles on the top of the wall.

Long after the kitchen and loo have been finished and bell tower raised to the first floor we are:

1. Putting a bell wheel high on the north wall inside the church at the back.
2. Establishing a permanent place of residence for the British legion flag
3. Re wiring the audio-visual stuff and hosting a TV screen
4. Re hanging some of the oldest boards of dedicated workers and work – the earliest is around 1774.

In the church yard we have attended to 2/3 of the trees that needed attention and they have been pruned and we hope this year to do the last section.

We have renewed the terraced section of the SE area of the graveyard.

We are constantly improving our greening of the church and churchyard. Including bat and bird boxes, bug hotels and areas under cover for slow worms etc.

After those covid years attendance is rising closely but we are very aware that infection numbers have risen over this last winter.

The church community continue to support and help at village events: Flower Show, Welcome evening, The Lunch and much more.

The School visits the church for events and part of the RE curriculum. And we have a variety of visiting groups who are always welcome to the church.

We have a mix of services, knowing we can't please everyone all the time but can try and please most of the people most of the time.

St Peter's is now part of a wider, bigger benefice, including Whitchurch, Tufton and Litchfield, Hb Priors, L'p and Woodcott, and now Barton Stacey and Bullington - nine in total.

Our Priest in Charge is Rev David Roche with Russ Smart as the Associate Priest. The assistants are Dodie Marsden, Richard Sutcliffe, the soon to be ordained Chris Theobald, Nicky Smallwood and a wonderful group of Lay Ministers.

St Peter's is here to serve, it's a village church in the truest sense. We are hugely grateful for the support of people who live here, not only financially (and in these difficult times this is hugely appreciated) but also those who genuinely care about St Peter's nine hundred year history in this place and those who care for, decorate, flower arrange, prepare and much more inside the church and in the churchyard.

Thank you to everyone.