

Draft 2024 PCC report for Annual Parish Meeting.

At last there is some good news on the horizon. Even though strictly it belongs to this year, it is so important for the village that it deserves a place in this report. After nearly two years without a Vicar to guide and support us, we have been told that the Revd James Moring will be licensed to this Benefice at the end of July. He and his young family will be living in Thurgarton, and he will have the care of seven parishes. But with a difference – because all last year and some time before, the Diocese has been working on a Rural Revitalisation scheme, whereby many parishes and benefices will be linked to each other within clusters providing mutual support, with much more specialist additional support from the Diocese. This is a new scheme, and we view it with cautious optimism. Much work will be needed when it is operational, and we look forward with relief to the thought of having a Vicar again.

It has not been easy to continue to provide the necessary care and commitment to the parish, but with the help of many people, we have provided monthly services, twice weekly online services, and the church is open daily and is clean and warm thanks to volunteers and all those who donate to the church financially. We offer a pastoral service to those in need, and we are up to date with our safeguarding regulations. The churchyard is looked after by a valiant team of volunteers who mow, trim, prune and weed, assisted by the Grasshopper group. We have to mention here the tremendous work done by Ali Sutherland, whose energy and enthusiasm for removing overgrown greenery and motivating others to join her was legendary. She is missed by the community she served.

This year saw the quinquennial report from the architect, who inspected the church thoroughly, and identified areas that needed work. We were greatly relieved that there was not much that needed to be done, and the urgent work on the roof and elsewhere has been completed. We have also had the nave redecorated, and some plaster work redone. A great deal of work is needed on the overgrown cedar tree, which will hopefully be completed in the next few months.

We look forward to some new residents in the church in the fulness of time – a multi storey swift box is to be installed in the church tower. We enjoy being part of the wider village community, and have hosted the Arts and Crafts event, the Parish Council Christmas event, the WI summer picnic (but as an alternative because it rained), concerts, school services, and recently arranged a Memorial service with the WI for Christine Andrews. We are delighted that the churchyard was chosen as a suitable site for the installation of the Memorial bench for Queen Elizabeth II, and are very grateful to Charlotte and Gray Gent for all they did to make this possible. We are also very grateful to the Parish Council for the help they give by paying for the annual servicing of the clock. We are so grateful for the support we receive from the village, and we look forward to a new era in the church with the appointment of our Mission Associate (Vicar) James Moring.

I end this report with a plea. We do not have a Treasurer, and we are desperate to find one. If you are interested or can think of anyone who might be willing to help, please contact me.

Many thanks – Diana Temperley.

