

Annual Parish Council Report

Little Bealings

The last year has certainly been a rollercoaster; this time last year we were wondering how the future of the Church, and indeed the nation, would look, post-covid. Although we still have to exercise caution, thanks to the gift of the vaccine, the future is now a lot brighter.

Last autumn seems a while ago, but along with St Mary's at Playford, we hosted a harvest supper, the first we have held for some time and this sold out very quickly indeed. Our harvest services were well attended in both our Churches as were our Christmas ones, despite of extra restrictions put in place by the government.

Looking ahead, we now have a timeline for the work to commence on the redecoration of the Church, for which the Diocese has now approved, and this work should begin mid-late April. We are currently awaiting approval for the facility for the new kitchen, the War Memorial and other amendments to the existing faculty. It has taken a lot of time and a lot of effort to get to this point, and I am extremely grateful and offer my heart-felt thanks to all who have contributed immensely.

In February, Mrs Helen Clarkson stepped down from her role as Secretary and a member of the PCC, we take the opportunity to thank her for her contribution and the part she has played in our Church.

Our new pattern of services took effect from February, which now sees a service twice a month instead of once, as well of course as a service mid-week every week and on Thursdays the Church opens for private prayer, as well as an opportunity to speak with someone if needed.

We have now introduced our new service booklets for all services in both Little Bealings and Playford, that gives us greater flexibility in preparing our worship.

Our numbers are certainly showing an increase. There are challenges ahead, of course there are, particularly financial ones, like a lot of other Churches and organisations at this time post-Covid. I believe we can rise to this challenge. This is not going to be easy but the more we can raise enable us to reach out to the wider community as well as our continued worship on Sundays.

In the not-too-distant future, we hope to launch a new venture working with young people; this will be called 3G Wellbeing, and along with Kesgrave, Martlesham and other Churches in the areas, to offer young people a space where they can come and have a chat, as well as talk about mental health issues. This will be one of the biggest challenges as we going ahead.

We are very much looking forward to the Jubilee Celebrations which will consist of a flower festival, family theme nights, and a Songs of Praise.

As we head towards the summer, it looks like a busy time, but one as a Church which we seek, to serve the community which we are part of.

Thank you all for continuing to support our Church, and we welcome all to join us at whichever service suits you best.

Every blessing.

Reverend Gary Jones