

## Yarlington Church Report April 2023-24

The year started in style with The Yarlington Fringe doing a performance of Bizet's Carmen in the church as it's excellent 'Pop-up' opera, directed by our local Director, Karen Gillingham. The following week, in May, the bells were rung, and our church was the first in the Camelot Parish to celebrate The Coronation of King Charles II. Union Jacks and Red, White and Blue flowers decorated the church and graveyard. Marquees stayed up for the wonderful Village Meal next to the church on the Bank Holiday Monday. Then the hailstones came on Tuesday, causing the worst flooding in the area and down Pound Lane in decades.

The Church remained dry. There was some planned work on the North wall, which had ongoing damp issues. The outside wall was re-pointed, and the internal wall had the damp plaster removed and it was left to dry out for 4 months. In September it was re-plastered, and the wall is now dry at the cost of £3,060. We are still building up funds for a new floor, which is in a bad way in places. We hope to have a kitchen counter on the East side in the church and a lavatory, if permissions are obtained.

The church has been used a few times as a venue for Parish and Village meetings, while the Village Hall is out of action. The Harvest Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> September included a hot, light supper afterwards. The Camelot Christmas Choir started rehearsals at the end of October, alternating venue with Galhampton.

Christmas got off to a wonderful start on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, with a concert given by Wells Cathedral School Choir. It was all organised by The Newt, who provided delicious refreshments, and gave us the retiring collection, which raised over £350 for us; Gratefully received, Thank You! Our own Christmas Carol service was another resounding service, with the congregation filling the church as carols and readings echoed in the rafters. Special thanks to the Choir and support of Karen Goddard on the clarinet. Also, the amazing flower arrangements on

the font and pedestal provided by Marlene Masters in memory of her husband.

In January, we had a couple of funerals of Yarlington Parishioners, including Jim Martin who was a dedicated member of the PCC for many years, until Covid, with his wife Doreen.

The Choir got rehearsing again with Clare Leavold in February, preparing an 'arrangement' of Bach's St Matthew's Passion (Part One). On Passion Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, it was performed, with the help of Organist: Francis Marchal, Readers: Rev. Ron Wood and Bruce Critchley, and Karen Goddard on the Clarinet. A very successful service, in place of the usual Evensong, which was followed by Hot cross buns and drink.

(Part Two will hopefully follow sometime in the future.)

Easter Day was also celebrated as an Evensong Service, with Communion.

Looking ahead, there are 2, possibly 3 weddings planned in the church this Summer. We hope that services will continue on a regular basis after September with the retirement of Rev Tristram Rae Smith. We wish him a happy retirement and await news from the Diocese for our future, which might mean more responsibilities for our Lay Readers and Church Wardens.

Our next APCM will be on Fri 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Time tbc)

Clare Leavold  
Sec. Yarlington St Mary's Church PCC