

## Report from the Parochial Church Council

The church continues to be a hub for all kinds of village activities, and we are very fortunate to have such an open and flexible space. We know that many people appreciate the church being in the heart of the village, a place where they can pop in for a moment or two of quiet reflection, to say a prayer, or even to have a cup of tea!

We have started leaving tea and coffee and a kettle out. This seems to be appreciated by passers-by and the occasional cyclist or walker.

On Wednesdays we have Rise and Shine, which is very popular with a wide range of people of all ages. We have activities for children, and there is always good coffee and plenty of cake.

Our congregation is not huge, but numbers are stable and it has been good to welcome some new members in the past year. We are grateful to our small choir, and from time to time our benefice choir sings here, as does the Hexachord Choir. We are also hugely indebted to the large number of people who work behind the scenes - cleaning, ringing bells, arranging flowers, serving coffee, looking after the churchyard, and many others too.

We have a fabulous building, but being ancient it is a huge drain on resources. We are about to embark on some fairly major work on the porch and its roof. We have been fortunate to get a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, but have still had to dig into reserves to cover the costs. We are trying to encourage parishioners to make a regular donation, however small. If you would like to do this there are forms at the back of the church, or you can speak to the rector, warden or treasurer.

Thank you all for your support. We aim to keep the church alive and relevant for the challenges of the next quarter of the 21st century!

Gareth Miller (Rector)