



May 10th 2023 **Report from St Lucia's Church to UM Parish Council**

Our thanks to the Parish Council for the Jubilee bench in the sensory garden, often used by the community & visitors, a place for peace & quiet reflection.

In November in conjunction with the new accessible church path the PC were kind enough to contribute towards new LED lighting at the Lichgate, making this area safer and more accessible for all and hoping it will encourage more parking at the Village Hall instead of the road, especially by parents of children at St Lucia's School.

The ongoing funding towards the maintenance of the churchyard is greatly appreciated, and the village green has been added to this and our group of volunteers has fortunately doubled in the last year. Thanks also to Lesley Picton for advising me about a new brown church sign, now erected opposite the Haughmond.

2022 also saw the opening of church from 9am-5pm April til November and by appointment during the winter months for visitors to the Village. This has been successful as the visitors book shows, with donations increasing. A bespoke secure donation box is being made by a volunteer at the moment.

We also welcomed Olivia Haines as our new curate who has introduced "Lucy's Lambs" in Church every Friday morning 9 -10.30am aimed at under 2's, with 'Praise & Play for toddlers once a month. Both seem successful.

She has also introduced ' Youth Cafe" every fortnight 6.30 - 8.30pm in the Village Hall for youngsters 10- 14 years from the surrounding

villages which is well supported , with other clergy and volunteers helping on a rota basis, and numbers are increasing .

We have also welcomed St Lucia's school, parents & governors on many occasions this year for Harvest, Leavers, Jubilee concert and many more.

Looking ahead, we are mindful of how quickly an old building such as ours can deteriorate, so maintenance of the building & its grounds is one of our priorities, we were on the "at risk" register for many years before the restoration project. Volunteers cannot do everything so our budget has to cover this year cleaning of the guttering, rodding of the drains, new covers for some drains and looking carefully at the older Chancel roof for any damage.

Swifts - Following a request we are happy to see this project proceed using the Bell Chamber in the Tower being the site of swift boxes and 'auditable transmitter". We are supportive of this project and funding needs securing.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS-

JUNE 10th " An Evening of Musical entertainment with the ROCK CHOIR and guest musicians"

JULY 8th - ' A Teddy Bear jump from the Church Tower with BBQ"

SEPTEMBER 9th in the Village Hall " A Country & Western Evening"

In appreciation for all your support

Sue Woods - Church Warden, on behalf of St Lucia's PCC