

## **Pulford Churchwarden's Report for APCM on Wednesday 8th May 2024.**

Unfortunately for the last few months of this Church Year I have been out of action so I would like to begin my report by thanking all those who have kindly stepped up to fulfil my role in my absence, particularly Bridget Marsden, my fellow Churchwarden, who has worked tirelessly on top of her already onerous role as Church Treasurer.

In 2023 the painting of the ceiling in the rear Nave of Pulford Church ( previously damaged by a water leak from the roof in the northwest elevation which has since been successfully repaired ) was completed by J&J Painting/Decorating at a cost of £780.00, most of this expense due to the scaffolding needed to perform the works.

We have been keen to maintain the bell ringing at Pulford with visiting bell ringers from St.Leonards, Middleton and Farnborough, who kindly leave a donation towards Church funds.

We have managed to have the Belfry cleaned and the protective wire replaced to prevent further bird access. This has only been achieved, at no cost to the Church by the generous volunteering of Tom Walker, Jon Williams and Jan and Willy West.

All other Church housekeeping is up to date with regards the clearing of gutters and downspouts, fire extinguisher, boiler, clock and bell annual services all completed. The piano has also been cleaned and tuned and the Church signboard corrected with our new Rector Revd. Dr. Stephen Torr's details.

The churchyard was becoming a struggle and costly to maintain during the growing season but was brought under control by the sterling efforts of Tom Walker and Willy West. It would be helpful to have more volunteers in the future during periods of high growth to keep costs down.

Our Rector has also looked into the possibility of applying to the Council for help with future maintenance. This can only be approved if the Diocese confirms that we no longer have anymore space for full burials, which I am led to believe is the case.

We have continued to have a healthy number of weddings at Pulford Church and as usual they are often linked with a booking at the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel after the ceremony. Couples are therefore expecting to be married to fit in with this but often unaware of the six month period required for them to form an association with the Church beforehand. It has been suggested by our Treasurer that perhaps the Events Manager at the Hotel might be made

aware of this criteria to prevent future wedding applicants from applying too late.

There was a good attendance at our joint Harvest Festival, Carol and Easter services at Pulford Church. Thank you to Maureen Richards and the Choir for their contribution and to Margaret Walker for organising the Harvest Lunch and with Angela Newbould, providing the refreshments at the Village Hall after the Carol Service.

Messy Church, now kindly organised by Holly Torr, is held more regularly, once a month and well received with crafts followed by a Church service, alternating between our two churches.

We continue to contribute to the food bank at Ellesmere Port.

Both Bridget and I hope to continue as Churchwardens for Pulford and as I get fitter hopefully I will be able to resume my role more fully.

Sue Payne ( Churchwarden St. Mary's Church, Pulford. )