

## **SPARKFORD PARISH HALL REPORT**

**May 2024 – April 2025**

There have been two Parish Hall Committee Meetings during the past year. The AGM was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

The Hall has continued to have bookings on each weekday throughout the year, users being the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs & Beavers, the '0' Gauge train group, Greek dance practice, the Art Group, Yoga, Fitness & Boxing, and Bingo. It has also been used for parties and various events and meetings other than the Parish Council and Hall Committee. There were hopes that the 'Sparklets', an informal playgroup/coffee morning for parents and their young children would become a fixture but unfortunately lack of consistent support forced it to close on the 12<sup>th</sup> February.

The Church held a coffee morning and marked Shrove Tuesday with a pancakes and cakes morning in the Hall, both very well attended. The Committee again hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September, also providing a cake stall and a raffle, and a total of £140.00 was raised for the charity. A Christmas Fair, including a raffle and refreshments, was organised by the Committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> December. There was a good response from potential stallholders approached to participate and the event raised £219 for the Hall. Also in December the young professional tenor Gregory Steward, together with his soprano sister Ellen, made a welcome return visit to the Hall for a concert of Christmas music and carols.

With regard to maintenance and upkeep, an electrical inspection was carried out by Yeovil electrical contractors P & R Hurt. Some faults have been rectified and a few items replaced and the Hall's safety certificate has been renewed for two years. A new set of stepladders has been purchased and a new element was fitted to the heater in the Ladies. Routine clearance of leaves and debris from drains and weeding around the exterior was also carried out. A new hanging basket for the exterior has been ordered from Derryn at Vale of Camelot Growers.