

St Mary Magdalene Sparkford

Annual Report to the Parish Council

This has been a busy year of change for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that runs and administers the Village Church. Of note, was the hand-over of the post and responsibility as Churchwarden from Mr Andy Voysey to Stuart Cattermull at the Church's last APM; the subsequent arrival of the Reverend Caroline Walker as the Interim Minister, and the expansion of the Benefice from 6 Parishes to 9 with the inclusion of North and South Cadbury, Yarlinton and Galhampton. Accordingly, the Benefice has been renamed the Vale of Camelot Churches. Caroline is the Vicar for all the Parishes and their Churches and is based in the Rectory in North Cadbury. A monthly schedule of services is published for the Benefice so that anyone can attend a service at one of the welcoming village churches.

As to St Mary Magdalene we have, like many other churches in the Benefice, one regular Sunday service a month which normally starts at 11am. A fortnightly Evening Prayer Service continues on Mondays at 6pm and the Church remains open every day for quiet reflection. In addition to the regular services, St Mary Magdalene has hosted this year the Village Cubs and Scouts Carol Service, the Village Remembrance Service, a Baptism, 2 Burials and 4 Committals of Ashes in the Churchyard. Although no marriages, a local wedding is scheduled for the 12 Jul with the first Banns of Marriage having been read at the Church on Easter Sunday. The Service Register for the year records that nearly 600 people have attended various services at our Church this year. In addition, 132 people have signed the Visitor Book in the Church, coming as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United States.

Many of the comments in the Visitor Book refer to the lovely and well-maintained graveyard. The maintenance of the grounds and the upkeep of the graveyard is only possible with the generous financial support of the Parish Council. The main financial outlay for the PCC this reporting period has been circa £6000 to complete the repair work to the Church Organ by Liberty Organs and the replastering of sections of the internal walls with Lime due to damp. All the funds to keep the Church open and functioning and enjoyed by many have come from kind donations and fund raising. The fundraising events have included Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall and a very successful Pancake Day; a VE Day Tea Party will also be held on the 8th May at the Village Hall. The PCC continues to extend its links with the Village Scout Groups with them helping to re-survey the graveyard as a project this June.

The PCC would also like to extend their sincere thanks to those members of the Village who have volunteered to clean the Church and those on the Key Register who open and close the Church daily. Their behind-the-scenes support highlights all that is good with our Village community.

Stuart Cattermull
Churchwarden
St Mary Magdalene Sparkford

5 May 2025