

DRAYTON BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL A G M

ST. PETERS CHURCH, DRAYTON BASSETT. Tuesday April 16th 2024

We have had a busy year at St. Peter's Church with various services throughout the year and social events taking place.

SERVICES

Sunday morning services are held at 9.30am, a variety of services with both modern and traditional hymns using a screen and iPad for music and liturgy and a wonderful pipe organ being used once more for some services. We have a Communion service on the first Sunday of each month and we are pleased to say our congregation has increased which is encouraging. Tea and Coffee and biscuits are served after every service which is well received and time for a chat and catchup with each other.

Tuesday evenings we have a **Bible Study** group from 7pm to 8pm in the Gallery room, studying different aspects of the bible and then we have a discussion on what we have read, always an interesting debate.

Thursday mornings we have **Morning Prayer** in the Gallery room from 9.15am to 10am when we have scripture readings and a discussion on these, then some time for private prayer.

In order to save on heating costs in the Peel Parish Church's it was decided that from October 2023 to February 2024 we would alternate the services between St. Peter's and St. Paul's church in Fazeley during the winter months. The time of the service was changed to 11am and teas and coffee served before the service at 10.30am. Although driven by finances it gave us an opportunity to worship together and enjoy the fellowship.

During Lent this year we opened the church every Monday from 9.15am to 3.30pm then from 6pm to 9pm a varied program of different events with a timetable throughout the day including readings, psalms, hymns, communion and quiet times for reflection, so something for anyone who just wanted to call into church anytime during the day.

SERVICES OVER THE YEAR INCLUDE

Annual Remembrance Service at the Memorial Cross then a service in church.

Christmas Carol Service and Christingle Service.

Mothering Sunday (everyone was given a flowering plant).

Ash Wednesday and a Good Friday Service.

Easter Sunday Service.

Harvest Festival Service.

With sadness we have had 6 funeral services, some of whom were sadly local residents from the village.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thankyou to Margaret Putman and her family who give up their free time to mow the church graveyard and keep it looking as good as it does, we thank them for their continued help and support and we are very grateful to them.

You may have heard the church bells ringing on a few occasions, we have bell ringers from other churches who want to practice with our bells, as they are a full complement of bell tolls, its lovely that these are being rung because they are an important part of our church and its heritage.

We had a Wedding in May last year always a lovely occasion and we have another Wedding taking place in August of this year and we looking forward to celebrating this happy event.

EVENTS

In May last year we held our popular annual **Plant and Coffee Morning** and we are holding it again this year on Saturday 18th May 10am to 12.30pm with plants for sale, very reasonable from a local nursery, home made cakes to buy and a tombola also teas and coffee and refreshments, so please come along. We decided to hold the same event towards the end of the year in October 2023 with plants for Autumn including a variety of bulbs, tulips, daffodils and an assortment of plants for this time of year. We are hoping to have another planned for this Year in the Autumn.

Light night on Halloween with crafts for the children and refreshments.

Sutton Coldfield Community Choir held two concerts in the church one in the summer and the other was a Christmas Concert with all donations on the night going to the ACACIA charity which is a family support charity.

We had our first **Murder Mystery night** in January this year and it was held in Drayton Club with a fish and chip supper, the event was sold out and it was a great evening with lots of laughter, we are hoping to have another Murder Mystery evening towards the end of the year, so watch this space.

Power and Pipes Event Being held on Saturday 20th April between 12am and 6pm. It is a fundraising organ playing Marathon at St. Peters church to raise money for the Parish. Our organist will be playing a selection of music continually from midday and you are invited to call into church and request a piece of music to be played for you, along with a donation. Tea and Coffee and biscuits are served while you listen and between 5pm and 6 pm there will be a sing along to finish the evening. Please come along and request a piece of music.

Manor School. We have enjoyed the children from the school coming into St. Peter's church for different events, a Carol service, School Leavers service and Concerts and recently a lovely concert with such beautiful singing, it was amazing, it's a pleasure to have the children using the church and look forward to many more occasions in the future and would like to thank Mr Simon Robson and Mr Jacob Lloyd and all the staff from the school.

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH

We have had new lighting in the Gallery Room which is much brighter than the old chandelier lighting which was very dull. Some large pieces of stonework from the corner Tower Buttress which is the oldest part of the church circa 13th Century had fallen off, this has now been repaired and put back in place. Chancel roof is leaking water into the church and it is being repaired this week. The gutters have all been cleared. We have had a Quinquennial survey report carried out recently which has to be done every 5 years and we are awaiting a full electrical inspection to be carried out. There is always work to be done on a church of this age.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION We are planning get a group of people together to tidy up the pathways and other areas where its required ready for the judging as we did get full marks last time the village entered.

That is a summery in the year of St. Peters Church and we look forward to working together with the community, keeping you informed of future events, which we do through social media platforms and information which is posted through doors in the village. The church is a welcoming place for everyone so please feel free to join us, you will always be made welcome with a cup of tea or coffee.

This concludes the report for St. Peters Church, Drayton Bassett 2024