

Report of St Peter's Church April 2025

We have had a busy year at St. Peter's Church with various services and social events and also substantial repairs to the church building.

This is going to be a year of change as Rev. Jonathan Iddon who has been our vicar for the last eleven and a half years has now moved to a new parish in Shenstone and Stonnall. We wish him and his family our best wishes for the future in their move. We are therefore now in a time of vacancy when we put together a profile and advertise for a new vicar over the next few months, hopefully the right person will hear our call to join us at St. Peter's and the DFM parish to be our new vicar.

SERVICES

Sunday morning services are held every Sunday at 9.30am, a variety of services with both modern and traditional hymns, using the screen and iPad for music and liturgy. We have a wonderful pipe organ which Andy our talented organist plays and it's lovely to hear this in church. We have a communion service on the first Sunday of each month and we are pleased to report that our congregation has increased which is encouraging. Tea, coffee and biscuits and sometimes cake is served after every service which is well received and gives time for a chat and catch up with each other.

Every other Wednesday evening from 7pm to 8 pm we have a **Bible Study** group where we study different passages of the bible and then analysis what we have read, it can sometimes be an interesting debate.

Every Thursday morning at 9.15 to 10.am we have **Morning Prayer** held in the Gallery room where we meet together for prayers and a scripture reading and time for private prayer.

SERVICES OVER THE YEAR INCLUDES

Annual Remembrance Service

Memorial Service for those who have lost loved ones recently or in the past.

Traditional Christmas Carol Service.

Candlemass Service.

Ash Wednesday Service. The church was open all day with a program including songs of psalms, stories from the bible, private prayer and communion so something for everyone just to pop in and take part.

Mothering Sunday were everyone was given a plant to take home.

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday service.

With great sadness we had 6 funerals throughout the year, some of whom were local to this village being well respected residents and they will be greatly missed.

We celebrated with 2 weddings, one only recently and its always a happy occasion for everyone and the other Sunday we had a christening of baby Archie it was a lovely service for him and his family.

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The Bell ringers They come to practice every Thursday evening and you may have heard them making the most of our full peal of bells. We also have visiting Bell ringers. Its lovely these are being rung as they are an important part of our church heritage and this village.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Margaret Putman and her family who give up their free time cutting the grass in the graveyard and keeping it looking so tidy, we thank them for their help and continued support at St Peter's.

The Clock Tower. The tower clock had stopped (you may have noticed it was stuck at 1pm for 2 weeks) was in need of repair and servicing. Drayton Bassett Parish Council kindly offered to pay for this work to be carried out so you will now be able to rely on the clock and its time keeping. On behalf of St. Peter's Church we give our grateful thanks to Drayton Bassett Parish Council for their kind and generous offer.

The Church is also used for **Election voting** which seems to be more often of late! But it does provide us with some income so we are happy to accommodate these events.

Events In May last year we held our Spring Plant sale and Coffee Morning and another was held in October, both were well attended and always popular. This year we are holding our Spring Plant Sale and Coffee morning on Saturday 10th May from 10am to 12pm with lots of plants for sale, home made cakes to buy, a raffle, tea, coffee and a cake. Please come along and enjoy the morning with us.

Manor School We enjoy the Children from Manor School coming into church for various events, Christmas carol concert and they sang beautifully, the school leavers service where the children were awarded prizes for their achievements during their time at Manor School there were a few tears mainly from the parents. They also had an Easter service recently. It's always a pleasure to welcome the children into church and look forward to many more occasions. We would like to thank Mr Simon Robson and all the staff from school.

Repairs to the church We have had to have major repairs carried out over the year on the church, you may have seen the scaffolding which was up for at least a couple of months. The stone work at the North side of the Tower which is the oldest part of the church circa 12th/ 13th Century was falling away and eroding to a degree that it was dangerous so we had to have a Conservation Company and stone masons for the repair at a substantial cost of around £13,000 and we were fortunate that over the last 20 years we had some legacies left to the church and without these we would not have been unable to get this work done. We still need repairs to the Chancel wall inside the church where the plaster is falling away but unfortunately the remaining legacies won't cover the cost of the work.

Applying for grants is the next step we need to take and if anyone can help us with grant applications or has any experience in applying for grant's we would be grateful of any advice or help.

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We are in the process of applying to HS2 for funding to provide a community hub in the church building so this can be more of a useable space for villagers to utilize and make use of also a projector and large screen so we can show popular films, we want to update the kitchen area and the toilet facilities. There are some plans in the church showing what is proposed and we will be delivering some leaflets over the next few days to households in the village. We want you to have a voice as to what you would like to see in developing the church space to make it a community hub for all. When you have received a leaflet we would be very grateful to hear your thoughts or any suggestions you may have for this community hub, so please reply on the sheet provided and there is a post box in the bus shelter to post them back to us. Please give this some thought, its your village and we want to have this opportunity to make a difference and have a community hub.

Thank you for listening to our report for St. Peters Church and we look forward to working together with the village community, keeping you informed of future events, either on social media platforms, our web site and leaflets. St. Peters is an open church for everyone so feel free to pop in and join us even if it's just a cup of tea or coffee after the service, you will be made very welcome.

Report of the Drayton Bassett VEGGIES

We are a group of 10 ladies that live in the village and put on different types of social and entertainment events throughout the year.

Our whole aim is to bring different people and parts of our village together to have fun and feel part and proud of the community we all belong to.

Over 60's Christmas lunch

This has been running for many years and is very well attended by people in the village. We put on a Christmas lunch and have some sort of entertainment after. It was a lovely singer last year who people said they very much enjoyed. We had some lovely comments from people of how much they enjoyed it and loved having a time to chat with each other. One villager said to one of the volunteers while standing in the queue in the post office that she "thought it was the best one ever" last year.

Carols in the Croft

This also has been running for many years but has evolved into being held in the Croft, where the residents very kindly open their gardens and courtyard to the village. We have a brass band and all get together to sing our hearts out with a celebration of carols and it is very well attended from all age groups. Then a special visitor, Santa, comes for the children and gives out celebrations boxes which are donated by a resident. People then go into the village club for mulled wine and mince pies all donated and take part in the raffle.

Village Quiz night

We hold a quiz night in the local village club and charge per person to include a fish and chip supper with mushy peas or curry sauce. We have not done this for a while but have used these nights to help fund the other events we put on totally free of charge.

Picnic in the park

We have organised one of these events in the past to celebrate the King's coronation. It's a 'bring your own picnic and drinks' event with your own blanket or chairs. We put on some games, and a craft table and maybe a bouncy castle if we can afford it. We also run a raffle to help with costs. It's a come and join in and catch up with each other event. We are planning on doing this again this year in June, funding permitting.

Funding Events

We do some fund raising in the form of quiz nights and raffles held at these events but our whole aim is to bring people together and cover costs.

We are very lucky that people support and donate many things to make these events happen along with lots of time and effort from the ladies and some of their husbands.

Many thanks
THE VEGGIES