**Report for Blewbury Parish Council AGM**

The PCC is composed of the Rev Canon Jason St John Nicolle and 8 members of the congregation. Since the pandemic we have established a new pattern of services for 10.30 on Sunday mornings, which consists of All Age Worship, Taize, Eucharist, and Village Service. Rev Louise has also established a pattern of outdoor services for the celebration of the natural world, welcoming many families and younger children. The online Sunday services and evening prayer (Compline) happen every week and continue to be well supported. Other services have been held including Mothers’ Union, Advent Carols, Christmas, Good Friday Hour at the Cross and a wonderfully full Easter morning service. We have also enjoyed a wide variety of events held in the church over the year such as the popular Village Christmas Carol concert. Although Rev Louise has retired, she is still very much part of the church community, and it has been great to have her leadership of Outdoor services and the Coffee and Kids initiative. We have been delighted to welcome to the Benefice our new Curate, Mark Rhodes-Smith and look forward to working with him in the future.

Apart from the regular business of ensuring the church is well-maintained, warm, and open, the PCC has also been working together to devise a future plan for the church in Blewbury. Our discussions have very much been around the place of the church in the village and how we can ensure that the church is a space for all to use and how we can support everyone in the village. The successful launch of The Friends of St Michael’s means we now have a larger group of local people who are happy to help us to move towards our goals, through working with the PCC and assisting with any fund-raising. This is an exciting initiative. We are keen to have the church used by as many as possible as it has always been such a focal point in the centre of the village. The physical space of the church will be looked at next with the appointment of an architect to advise and guide us as we try to achieve our wish-list of practical improvements. There have been many smaller projects also completed by the maintenance group and others, including improvements to the paths in the Playclose. The church is open to all every day of the week from morning to evening and we welcome visitors to look round the ancient building or to take a moment to sit in the peace and tranquillity of such a beautiful space.

Annie Casey

Secretary to St Michael’s PCC,

May 2024.