

St Georges Church

Good evening everyone

I have a little update about what has occurred during the year in your church.

As you will be aware the church has been in a period of interregnum since the departure of Simon Dommet who has moved to Bedfordshire. We are now pleased to say we have the Reverend Susan Cooper who was Inducted? on the 30<sup>th</sup> March so we are looking forward to having her as our vicar.

I would just like to give you a few facts and figures to do with the church that you may not be aware of: For example, the church will need to pay an amount to the diocese as its Parish share which last year was **£16,500** and increases annually by some substantial amount.

The money is raised by congregation donations, and vigorous fund raising. It is true to say that this payment is a financial hardship for our church. Last year we just broke even. St Georges church does rely on the support of the village in our fund-raising events.

Although the church fund raises for its Parish share, there are also the day to day expenses- **YES** we have to pay our electricity bill-and insure the building , printing costs + the general repair of the building which is considerable.

As a church we are also committed in our support of many charities – last year **£411** was donated to Crisis Skylight Oxford. **£500** to Restore Mental Health. **£150** to Sense. **£232** to Faith works. **£224** to Combat Stress. **£250** to Centre point. Mothering Sunday- Supported Northants Baby Basics. The Toy Service-Supported- Homestart.

This year our plans for the upkeep of the church are, re-plastering of the church porch and the west wall of the church, due to commence late April /May which has been made possible by a generous donation from Evenley Matters, so immense thanks to them. Also, we are looking at the replacement of the carpets which I believe have been in situ for some thirty years or so- for which we have had a quote **of £1,700**.

**Forth coming events.**

Alongside the open gardens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will have a flower festival in the church if any of you are able to do an arrangement (Cathy) we do have a small flower fund so we can offer some expenses money. There will be teas and cake as well, so we hope you will come along and support.

The date of our Annual Church Fete is 13<sup>th</sup> July, so please put it in your diary.

We also have some ideas for events which when I have dates I will keep you informed

And to conclude we are delighted to say that we now have an enthusiastic group of young bell ringers who are learning the ropes (excuse the pun).