

## **St John the Baptist Boddington**

### **Report on the village church for Boddington Parish Council**

- a. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has met on four occasions in the past year to further the management of the church building and its environs and the life and work of the church. Following discussion with the Archdeacon, the Northampton Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Commission (NAMPC) and the PCC we have agreed that it will remain open at least for another 5 years. We are just about surviving financially and in terms of numbers of those attending church.
- b. Our village consists of a population of approximately 700 people. According to recent figures, about 4% of the population are regular church goers. 4% of 700 is 28, sadly we fall short by over 50%; our average Sunday attendance is 11. However, attendance at special services such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas etc have risen slightly in the past year. The church has been a central part of the village for over 800 years and it would be a tragedy if it were allowed to disappear.
- c. Care of the building and its environs remains a priority for the PCC. There are a few minor problems with masonry bees in the walls and some pointing required. However, financially we are in no position to start any major works. One project we are looking at is widening the path up to church to allow vehicular access. Our congregation is getting older and more frail. The walk up the hill becomes more demanding; it is one of the reasons we get fewer attendees from the other benefice parishes.
- d. The Parish Share has been reassessed across the benefice to better represent the congregations. Therefore, our share has been reduced for the coming year. It remains a substantial sum but it is possibly more achievable than previously: 2024 £13,230; 2025 £10,083. The amount required is approximately £840 per month and pays for the support of our Rector, for management of her housing and general parish expenses. We also support the recruitment and training of future priests, and the management of safeguarding across the Diocese.
- e. The church links with the school continue to be supported by Sally Patmore, who is a regular visitor and contributor to the Christian teaching in the school. The school hold Harvest, Carols, Christingle, Easter and end of year services in church. These are always well attended by parents and relatives of the children. The school also holds a special Armistice Day service at the War Memorial when the children of

years 5 and 6 plant remembrance crosses for those lost in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars.

f. The church has supported the Foodbank in Woodford Halse through much of last year. However, as contributions fell during the summer months, we took a break and resumed collections in the Advent period. Collections have resumed recently.

g. The PCC has complied with its duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). There have been no safeguarding incidents reported in the past year and we hope that this satisfactory state of affairs continues. All the safeguarding paperwork is in place and up to date. All PCC members have completed the requisite training and obtained their DBS checks. The Safeguarding action plan, which is the equivalent of the safeguarding audit, is available for view at the rear of the church.

h. As ever, the church remains open in daylight hours throughout the year for anyone to visit. The churchyard is a haven for an amazing amount of flora and fauna, and there is a large 'bug hotel' at the far end. We currently hold a gold award for our management of the churchyard.

Sandy Pattenden  
Church Warden