

## **St Peter's – Ilton**

### **Report for Parish Council AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Firstly, please accept my apologies for not being able to deliver this report in person, my diary showed a prior engagement! However, Jacqueline has very kindly offer to read this out on behalf of St Peter's.

2024 was a reasonably good year for our church. We enjoyed 4 fund-raising events, St Peter's tide Cream Tea in June, BBQ in July, Harvest Lunch in October and finally our much supported Carols by Candlelight, candles being bought in memory of loved ones no longer with us. All events were well supported and as fund raisers help to keep our beautiful old church going. Like all organisations, it gets ever harder to meet our outgoings, so fund raising is a must, and we sincerely thank all who help church to meet its commitments. These four events will occur during 2025.

Our really big village service is always the Remembrance Service held on the green, and I can promise that after last year's difficult timing there will be amendments made to this. I propose that we do not leave Merryfield Hall until at least 10.40am. It is always easier for the minister leading this most important and poignant service to juggle things around once we have reached 11.00am. Last year' service meant that so much was moved that the flow was lost. However, this can be addressed.

We still are keeping the Restoration of church in mind, and to this end, last summer moved all funds into an Instant Access Savings Account, which realises a little interest each month. It's not a lot, but far better than the zero amount we were getting before. What we really need, is someone who could commit themselves to sourcing Grants, someone who has these skills and knows their way around completing forms and seeking out information that may well help us to restore this beautiful building.

We at St Peter's realise how important the church is to the village, but we can't do any of this without the support and help from the good people who live here and value our Church. To ensure the longevity of St Peter's we need to show that our church is valued and much needed. In today's world, we know that if something can't be proved to be a success, it runs the risk of closing down. I feel quite confident that no one in this village would like that for St Peter's, I for one certainly will do everything I can to keep St Peter's going. We do have a vibrant and loyal congregation, church is open to anyone, no matter whether you come regularly, occasionally or not at all. We aim to reach out to our village being able to share that most important message, that of God's love and understanding.

If I can be of any help to anyone, then please feel free to contact me, I'm here to serve my God and my church. This village has given me so much during the last 4 ½ years that the least I can do, is to try with all my heart to keep St Peter's active. We are all God's children, whether we recognise it or not.

To see what happens each month in church, please refer to the notice board by the main gate. All services and activities are shown there, together with my contact details.

Please accept my thanks for allowing me to share these thoughts with you and we at St Peter's look forward to 2025 (although we are nearly half way through) and all that it can offer us.

I close by wishing God's blessing to be with each and every one of you.

Sonya R Clarke (Mrs)

Treasurer for St Peter's and Reader for the Isle Valley Benefice