

Report for Parish Council AGM 2022 from Fressingfield Parish Church

Your Parish Church continues to endeavour to serve the community here in Fressingfield; We are here to celebrate the birth of children with services of Thanksgiving and Baptism. We are pleased to help prepare people for marriage and celebrate with them and their families on their wedding day. We are also here to support those who have lost a loved one through death, perhaps with a service here in church or at a crematorium.

Our lovely churchyard is a peaceful place to sit a while, or walk through, the church is open during the day for anyone to go in and enjoy the peace and beauty of the building.

But of course the church is made up of people and we give thanks to all those who help in any way to keep our church alive and welcoming to all. We are grateful to people who offer to help by cleaning, arranging flowers, making tea, ringing bells all of which enhances our worship and our life together.

We are very pleased to welcome the primary school into church for their special services and this year we had the school in church in classes for the whole day to experience 'Christmas around the world,' it was great fun.

Playtime, our carer and baby and toddler group continues to run, giving both children and adults a place to be safe and enjoy some company. Thanks go to the mums who run it and also Christine Lindsay for her continued support and the ladies who come and make the coffee.

However, it does cost a lot of money to keep the church open and functioning and 2022 is the first year since 2008 that we were not able to meet our parish share. We hope we can this year and intend to do some fundraising to help. Our church has to be self-sufficient, our general expenditure for 2022 was over £39,000 and that does not include the £4,000 we could not pay towards the parish share.

But the church is a place of hope and I pray that we can pay our bills this year. Regardless, we shall continue to pray for our community and serve it in any way that we can.

As the rector I have had to step back a little from some local ministry as my responsibilities seems to get bigger every year. So we have a local team in place, but I am still the rector and very happy to come and listen to you, if there is something on your mind. We also have a few church visitors who will come and visit you if you would like them to.

Finally, please don't forget you can leave donations for the foodbank in the big blue box at the back of church. And if you or anyone you know is struggling to put food on the table please get in touch with me, Rev Susan 01379 388493 and we will supply some food from the foodbank.