

## HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL - AGM

Tuesday 18th March 2025

### St Andrew's Report

#### **The Rev Clarissa Cridland**

The Rev Clarissa Cridland was the priest for the East Mendip Trinity. East Mendip Trinity is a benefice that encompasses Holy Trinity church in Colefore, St Peter and St Paul's in Kilmersdon and St Andrew's here in Holcombe. Clarissa was unwell for most of 2023/24, which ultimately led to her early retirement in May of 2024. Since that time we have been without a regular priest and as yet, we have no knowledge when we may expect a replacement. However, we have been very fortunate in having retired priests and priests from other churches, coming forward and offering to take services and give Holy Communion. During times when this is not possible, we have a lay reader, Mary Dolman, who takes the service. Whilst this does not include Holy Communion, the services and their delivery, are very meaningful and as a congregation, we feel very fortunate.

#### **Notice Board**

The PCC is currently in the final stages of completing the inset for the external notice board. It will include the website details for those wishing to gain information on booking weddings, baptisms and funerals, alongside the time for the Sunday service.

#### **News Letter**

Historically, this task was undertaken by Clarissa. The role is now under the remit of Kate Mayo, from the Bath and Wells Deanery. Kate collates the news submitted to her by the three churches in the benefice.

#### **Midweek services at St Andrew's**

The midweek service was traditionally held on the third Thursday of the month. This day has now moved to the third Wednesday of the month. However with the low attendance rates, coupled with the current challenges in procuring a priest, it is uncertain how long the midweek services will be sustainable.

#### **Holcombe Old Church**

In May of 2024, Holcombe Old Church opened its doors to the public on Saturdays and Sundays. This facility ran through the summer and into early autumn and will restart again this year (date to be confirmed). This decision is based on the high level of footfall visiting the church, although unfortunately this has not been reflected in the generation of funds.

### **Fund raising activities**

Last year the fund raising activities included:

A spring and summer bingo

Gift Day

Cream tea in the garden

and the Christmas Fayre

It is hoped that these and others will be reflected in 2025.

### **Repair work and applying for funding**

Following the quinquennial report received in the spring of 2024, we have been advised that work is required on the church roof. Members of the PCC are currently engaged in securing quotes from roofing companies with a view to submitting a grant application to the National Churches Trust (NCT). However we need to be cognisant of the fact that the NCT will only fund 50% of the cost.

The church was successful in accessing the use of the Pay Back Scheme, which has enabled us to start work on repainting the church railings.

End of report.

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