

## St Peter & St Paul's Church & Friends of St Peter & St Paul

May 2024

A big thank you to our PCC, for its ongoing support and commitment, members giving virtually 100% attendance at all the meetings and coming forward always to support our various events and services and to plan positively for the future. Thanks also, to our ever-extending band of volunteers – mowers, helpers in the churchyard and all who assist with visitors, with services, and support our events. Also, to the bell ringing team and tower captain Colin Simpson, for keeping the ringing tradition and the tower alive. Thanks to the village community for rising to the challenge when asked - for decorating the church, for turning out and for simply valuing this special place. All welcome and we need more of you – please!

The closure of the village's Methodist Church was a sad moment. But led to positivity in the coming together of the different congregations to worship and pray at St Peter & St Paul and to assist in the organisation and leading of our own 'D.I.Y' services that have proved such a success. It means we can support at least 12 church services a year, with 6 of these clergy led. A monthly prayer group is also held. Being categorised as a "Festival Church" has provided us with opportunities and the motivation to widen the reach of the building. Our Christmas Carol Service was a huge success, with the church full to capacity and enjoying a varied programme suiting all tastes, young and old, finishing off with mulled wine and mince pies! The church was decorated with stars, and even more stars, all made by the village community. Folk came from all around to enjoy.

- We restored/replaced the dilapidated/falling apart Churchyard entrance and Christening gates.
- We began the registration process to secure title to the old Gas House.
- We completed hedge and tree planting across the churchyard.
- We organised a village cream tea event to celebrate the Coronation.
- We held a summer concert hosting the City of Lincoln Waites music group.
- We ran our annual Church Fete with thanks to Edward and Jayne Robinson for hosting.
- We participated again in the September Wolds and Coast Churches Festival.

All our events have secured healthy profits, which go towards maintaining and sustaining the church.

Significantly, we learnt that our National Heritage Lottery grant application for church fabric and heritage work had been successful, to the tune of £223,000. We achieved a further grant from the ELDC/Government Levelling Up Fund of some £90,000, for

restoration of the Gas House. We have achieved a £20,000 grant from the Marshall's Charity and £5,500 from the Headley Trust also geared towards buildings restoration. Projects are in full swing.

The Rectory property, held in trust by the Diocese on behalf of the PCC, had its long-term tenancy come to an end and the PCC is making arrangements to place this on the open market. The benefits of sale will be invested to support the ongoing running and maintenance costs of St Peter and St Paul.

The Friends of St Peter and St Paul group has been a major supporter of the PCC throughout the year and without this much of the above would not have been achieved. The Friends Group has set up a web site, a Facebook page and a soon to be launched JustGiving page, the latter specifically focussed on raising much needed monies to restore our historic organ.

Despite all the fundraising and the grant successes, the church fabric remains and will remain, in a perilous condition, unless further grants are applied for and achieved. We do need more volunteers and potential benefactors to come forward to help with making applications as well as assisting financially wherever possible.

For those who have not yet seen, I wholly recommend that you get yourself a copy of the May edition of Lincolnshire Life and read our splendid 4-page feature which focusses on our efforts to restore and sustain St Peter & St Paul and promotes this year's summer concert featuring harpist Eira Lynn Jones.

We look forward to the next exciting and fulfilling 12 months.

Steve Lumb

Lay Chairman PCC and Co-ordinator Friends of St Peter & St Paul

Contact [bolingbroke.church@gmail.com](mailto:bolingbroke.church@gmail.com)

16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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