

## PCC Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Our main focus last year was on the period of interregnum after the resignation of the Revd Phil White. He retired in May, after seven years of service to the 7 parishes of the West Trent Benefice, and we are now looking into a wait of some time before any form of replacement can be made. What this means in practical terms is that we are under-resourced when it comes to the number of services that are available to each parish, so that in Bleasby we have one service a month. Every third Sunday there is a Communion service for the whole Benefice at one or other of the churches, and we are also fortunate in that we have online services every Sunday, supplemented by a short service of Compline on Wednesday evenings. The discussions to consider a replacement were on hold until the Bishop had completed his work on Vision 2030, which is still very much in the planning stages. It is sobering to realise that there are at least 15 other Benefices in a similar situation.

But we continue to offer whatever service we can to the parishioners. We feel it is important that we join with other organisations in village events, and we have welcomed many people during the year to a live streaming of the Coronation, refreshments after the Christmas tree lighting, four concerts, a Bat Walk, and of course the church is open every day for anyone who wants to have a few quiet moments. What is much appreciated<sup>5</sup> that every month our cleaning team is joined by several people who may not come to church on ~~Sundays~~, but who would like to help in a very practical way. We have a pastoral team who will visit the housebound and ill when ~~we~~ are asked to do so, and we continue to encourage a strong link with the school.

Safeguarding is a very important factor in what we do, and we are kept up to date with all the necessary training. The team who work in the churchyard are looked after by Ali Sutherland, who also ensures that risk assessments and health and safety requirements are met.

During the year we had a great deal of work done on the windows, which look superb, and are now strong and straight, not wobbly and bowed. We agreed to have the interior of the church painted, which was part of the remit for this year, so I shouldn't really tell you that it has been done, and the church looks great. All this costs money – and we have installed a modern way of paying, the QR code method which is available in the car park as well as the church. So far the returns have been small, but we hope for an increase in funds. We are so grateful for the financial help which is given to the church, mainly through direct debit arrangements, and we are always happy to hear from people who would like to help the work of the church in this way. We care very deeply about the community, the people in this wonderful village, and we wish to serve you all in whatever way we can.