

## **2024 St. Nicholas Church report**

The good news is that our Vicar, Gary Noyes, is staying on beyond the original 2 years on a rolling contract (at least 2 more years I believe). He is proving, although only part time, to be popular with his congregations and parishioners. There is a general feeling of stability for the future.

The PCC would like to thank the Council for once again paying for the graveyard grass to be cut – it is greatly appreciated. We are also very lucky to have local people (not just villagers) to help us when fundraising. The Parish Share was paid in full (£8,500) as a result of all this help. This is important because it demonstrates to the Diocese we can afford to keep our Vicar here.

Our congregation is still small (7) but by combining with Catfield for services either here or at Catfield, there is a decent sized congregation.

We were able to have the village Cadets with their bugler for the Remembrance service, which made it very special.

Various repairs have been done in the last year. The churchyard wall has had a section rebuilt after damage to a pillar, caused by a tractor verge cutting and other areas were repaired (see photos). A new gate (see photo) was made, fitted and donated by David Beckett – many thanks to him. Our thanks also go to Sue Harris (of Stickers fame) for making various pelmets for the organ area, rood screen and choir stalls, all free of charge (see photo). Mary Haslam has continued to produce kneelers which brighten up the Nave, and receive a lot of visitor compliments.

We are very lucky to have so much support from villagers who are not church goers. Without this army of volunteers (too many to list here), the church would not be such a pleasant place for visitors to come to. To be able to demonstrate the church is used, not just for services, is of great importance to keep it from being closed.