

## PARISH AGM – REPORT FROM FRITHELSTOCK PARISH CHURCH

Over the past year, the church has continued to face a number of significant challenges, whilst remaining an important part of the life of the community.

Following the quinquennial inspection, which has now taken place, the resulting report has, as expected, identified a substantial programme of works required to the building. In light of this, we were grateful to welcome the Church Buildings Officer from the Diocese of Exeter, who visited to help us consider how we might move forward.

One particular area of concern has been the safety of the church bells. A further specialist inspection of the tower and bell frame has now been carried out, and the subsequent report confirms the work that will be required before the bells can be rung safely again.

At our meeting with the Diocese, it was suggested that forming a '*Friends of Frithelstock Church*' group could be a helpful and positive step, particularly in supporting fundraising and widening community involvement. There are, however, important recommendations regarding how such a group should be properly established and structured.

It was therefore felt that holding a community meeting would be a very good next step. This will provide an opportunity to explain clearly where we are and to explore together how we might move forward. We are currently looking to arrange this in the near future and will share details as soon as possible.

As noted last year, we were very saddened by the loss of our Churchwarden, Sidney Adams. At present, we continue without a Churchwarden, and the regular worshipping congregation remains very small, with just four members—although the major festival services throughout the year attract much larger numbers. The PCC is currently made up of those same four members, together with Fr Steve.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to seeking a sustainable future for the parish church, and we are hopeful that, with wider community support, a way forward can be found.

If you would like to register your interest in attending the proposed community meeting, receive further details when confirmed, or express an interest in being involved in a '*Friends Group*', please contact Fr Steve at: [fr.steveturner@icloud.com](mailto:fr.steveturner@icloud.com)

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