

TOLLER PORCORM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Parish Council meeting | Wednesday 11 September 2024

Church report

Provided by David Ennals and read by Community representative, councillor Debbie Billen, at meeting

Minute reference: 24/09-16 iii

The church roof continues to leak. There seems no method of obtaining a grant to replace the stolen lead as all the grant funding institutions would require us to raise at least £50,000 before an application could be made. With a congregation of around 10, with only 2 collections a month of about £50, we haven't a hope of mending our ancient church.

Tomorrow, the Apex stone on the Chancel end of the church is being replaced, as it could fall off in the near future resulting in much roof damage and even a danger to anyone in that area of the churchyard. To minimise costs, we are using the Architect's tower (Richard Blackmore's)- to avoid the need for scaffolding, and Cllr Chris and myself are transporting it from Richard's garage to the church in my van. Returning it all later in the day. The repair will be around £2,500, which leaves us just about in the black.

The church's dilapidated noticeboard is way out of date, as we only have 2 services per month since Covid, not 4. I am working with Nigel Philips to replace it with a new one. But nothing is easy in the Church of England, so permission via what's called a Faculty, has had to have been submitted to Salisbury. Would it be possible to apply for a grant for this new board from the Parish Council? But quite understand if it does not meet the criteria for such a grant. The cost will be around £160. The new noticeboard will provide the community and visitors to the village with accurate information concerning service times.

I am arranging for the church hedge along School Lane to be trimmed by Tractor this Autumn, hopefully later this month. Does the PC want the hedges in the Playing Field trimmed? I need to know ASAP.

Finally, bell ringing continues on Fridays, but unfortunately 5 of the 7 Ringers are from outside the village, we need more interest from residents. However, locking the church after bell ringing has meant the person locking has to go to the church after 7pm on a Friday which in the Winter months means turning out in the dark. The Bell Ringers have raised the money for a new key costing £300 which they will then use. I found a locksmith in Weymouth to make the new key. It is hoped the key will be ready for collection in a few weeks time.

David Ennals