

## ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

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### REPORT OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH CHELWOOD

At the present time we do not have a vicar and we have now advertised three times, the last advert was placed last Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May and so we await the outcome. We have had very little response to our previous adverts.

There is a service in Chelwood Church once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and this is conducted by locum vicars or one of the team vicars from Keynsham or we have to organise it ourselves. It is assumed that this will continue for the foreseeable future.

The church building is in a reasonable state of repair. The boiler has recently had some repairs although in time we have been told that we will need a new one which will cost in the region of £4000 - £5000. There is always going to be general maintenance as with any other building.

The churchyard has recently had a tidy up and is mown regularly and later on in the year we hope to plant some hedging and so we will be looking for advice and funds to do that. Any money we raise for this will be spent exclusively for the churchyard.

Our Parish Share for this year is £2898. This has been slightly reduced this year. I have managed to reduce this over the last two years by putting us in a lower category and arguing the point that less people go to church and so there are less people to pay. I have also tried to ask if this is ever addressed higher up but the answer always comes back the same "the church belongs to all of us".

Therefore the cost of running the church taking into account the parish share, the insurance, the oil and general maintenance we need approximately £250 per month. This leaves very little room for charitable giving.

It would be a shame if the church had to close and if we can maintain it in reasonable state of repair then I think we can do this. If everyone can do a little and come to anything in the village that is organised to boost church funds then this is helpful.

I appreciate that the service every month is a communion service but I am always up for different services at a particular time of year when it can be a bit more secular and involves children. We did have a very successful Plough Sunday Service this year and I hope to be able to repeat those kind of services during the year. We don't always need a vicar.

If anyone would like to be on the PCC then please let me know as we are a bit short on numbers.

I am sorry that I am not here to give this report but another vicar meeting calls!

Ann Sherborne Churchwarden