

## St Mary's Church, Yarlington Annual Report 2024/5

This last year has been full of huge changes and adjustments across all Parishes. This month is the first with the new patterns of worship emerging, but we do have a new name - no longer 'Camelot', but now 'Vale of Camelot Churches', as we (Yarlington, Galhampton, North and South Cadbury) join forces with Weston Bampfylde, Sparkford, Sutton Montis, Corton Denham, West and Queen Camel.

Bratton Seymour, Holton, Mapperton, Blackford, Compton Pauncefoot have moved to other parishes.

This has all been discussed by Parochial Church Councils everywhere for 3/4 years, and has also been timed with the retirement of Rev Tristram Rae Smith in August 2024. His retirement was marked with a lovely service of thanksgiving for all Tristram's leadership, Pastoral care and commitment last July. We welcome our new Interim Minister, Revd Caroline Walker, who will be with us for 3 years, and take us through this changing, and challenging stage.

If you want to find out more, and help us in Yarlington, I hope you will come to our APCM on Wed 14<sup>th</sup> May at 5.15pm, and yes, it's the same afternoon as the next Council Meeting!

Other events: The Camelot Choir gave a performance an arranged Part One Bach's St Matthew's Passion at Easter in 2024. It happened in Yarlington Church, with a recording played over the sound system, which we sang along with, the two main Choruses. With the help of our own Guest Organist Francis Marchal, and two readers speaking the parts of the Evangelist and Jesus, we sang the hymns, and in around an hour, absorbed the wonderful music and interpretation of the Gospel.

The Choir has also sung at weddings, and Tristram's leaving service, as well as preparing carols for Christmas. Other events are planned for later this year, 2025.

We are raising funds to give the church a new floor, kitchen area, and possibly a lavatory.

There have been a couple of weddings, and a couple of funerals – most recently Marlene Masters, who, amongst other things, paid for the installation and helped with the running costs of the flood-lighting of the church – the only lighting in the village, apart from the Stag's Head external light. She was a great, community minded Lady, and will be missed.

At the moment, we have a traditional Communion Service at 9am on the First Sunday of the month, Sung Evensong at 6.30 on the Third Sunday, and Sunday Worship at 11.00 on the Fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome you all.

Clare Leavold Sec.PCC Yarlington