

## News from St Leonard's

### Dates for your Diaries:

**The Summer Fete on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June** at the Old Rectory.

Planning Meeting on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.30 am** in the Village Hall. Do come and bring your ideas for stalls or activities with you.

**Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting** on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 3 pm in Byfield Village Hall. Followed by tea and cake and a chance to chat with other PCC members.

We are very pleased that people feel able to visit the church as and when they wish. We are very grateful for all the people who clean, do the flowers and generally support the church.

Concern has been expressed about the health of the yew tree outside the south door. Due to the trees age, it is probably 1,500 to 2,000 years old, specialists have been called in and have told us that last year's extremely hot and dry weather may have affected it. There will be some remedial work carried out in the near future. Please do not be concerned when you see holes being dug around the roots. This is to assess the extent of the damage and to, hopefully, treat the roots to ensure that it continues to grow for another 500 plus years. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We are very pleased to report that all the restoration work recommended by the Quinquennial inspection has now been carried out. Since 2009 we have spent £285,343 on this work on the outside of the church. We have been very fortunate in receiving grants of £159,366 with donations and fund raising making nearly £300,00 raised. It has been agreed that the small balance in this account should be transferred to General Funds and the account closed. There is some internal paint work required in the near future.

The Harvest Festival, Advent Carols and Walking Nativity were all well attended and we continue to build our links with The Sacred Heart church.

We continue to have two services a month in our church during the interregnum. Please see the notice board or check on the village website. The church is open for private prayer each day and, of course, access to the Book Swop. If you would like a lift or further information please contact Susan Fagg on [660886] or [susanfagg@btinternet.com](mailto:susanfagg@btinternet.com)

Susan Fagg  
13.04.23