

Great Bealings Annual Parish Meeting

April 19th, 2021

Report from the Bealings Community Hub on 2020 activities and a look forward to 2021

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council members for the opportunity to present a short report on the Bealings Community Hub. While the Hub is an integral part of Little Bealings Church--indeed, as a PCC we say they are one and the same--I will focus on the Hub for this report since it serves not only Little and Great Bealings, but also other surrounding areas. In fact, several Great Bealings residents were on the Founding Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their vision and for their work to get us as far as we have in the past few years.

While the Covid crisis put a temporary stop to very popular village activities and fundraisers such as the Annual Plant Sale, we continued to work on caring for the Church and making it as welcoming as possible. This includes the installation of new, energy efficient heating and an emergency fire system in the beginning of the year and visitors are very pleased with the results. Before the lockdown seasons began, we hosted myriad activities including regular Messy churches for families, the popular Monday evening Pilates classes, private prayer sessions on Wednesday mornings, and well attended Thursday morning walks throughout the Fynn Valley. We look forward to these activities, and more, being restarted soon and to the Church and Hub remaining at the heart of the community for the foreseeable future as and when government guidelines and prudent care for our parishioners and visitors allows.

Perhaps I can give you a further preview of the upcoming year and the expansion of services and activities at our beloved church, rather than dwelling too much on the challenges of 2020? We anticipate re-opening the volunteer-run Tearoom and Shop in early July so it won't be long before we can once again welcome families after school, serve hot lunches and delicious coffees, teas and cake, and host many neighbourhood get-togethers like the markets, tavern nights, musical events, and very successful creative sessions including, the Christmas wreath making workshops which were attended by residents of Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford and other special visitors!

We are also continuing to make improvements to the Church building and this Spring we will be installing broadband and Wifi and a projector and large screen. We have been asked to be a pilot venue for East Suffolk District Council's Suffolk Cinema Club and look forward to matinees, young people's mornings and evening films, and talks by local residents. Later this year, the permanent kitchen will be installed and we will replaster and limewash the walls. The final project will offer everyone the opportunity to be part of a key project to redo the path that leads to the church as we reform it with paving stones which can be engraved to honour and celebrate family and friends and special occasions.

As we approach sunnier times in the village and for the Church, we know that there will still be many challenges ahead, but please also know that the Bealings Community Hub will be here for you now and forevermore! While there may be two Benefices and two Bealings, I hope you will agree that we are really one large community of friends and neighbours. I am happy to take any questions that the attendees may have and thank you for your attention.

Reported by Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend
Little Bealings PCC Secretary