**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH TIXALL**

**REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024**

The church is a United Benefice with Ingestre and St-John’s Littleworth and holds services on the first and third Sundays in the month, together with special ones for Easter, Christmas and Harvest Festival. It is also available for weddings, funerals and baptisms. Due to the failure of the central heating system, services are currently being held in the Village Hall. The rector is Rev. Dr. Carl Rudd and the assistant rector is Rev. Sue Cooke. The church warden is Lars Enocson. Secretary is Kate Greatholder and treasurer is Nicholas Bostock.

The Quinquennial Inspection in 2019 reported that the church was in generally reasonable condition, though there are a number of issues with deteriorating stonework and windows. However, the oil-fired central heating failed in the autumn of 2022 and has been condemned. This is being replaced with an electrical system at an approximate cost of £7,000, and work is now underway after a long delay due to the difficulty in obtaining faculty approval from the Diocese. The churchyard is well maintained, with regular mowing and monthly volunteer working parties. The cost of this is mainly funded by a bequest, with the balance being grant-funded by the Parish Council.

The financial accounts for the year to 31st December 2023 showed an income of £8,538 and expenses of £7,564, leaving a surplus of £975. Investments were valued at £41,797 and net current assets totalled £6,800. There were two fund-raising events during the year, and it is hoped to hold three this year. The first is a talk by Nicholas Bostock on Saturday 4th May at 7pm in the Village Hall entitled “Barging to the Hanseatic Ports in the Baltic”, followed by supper. Our main source of income is from Gift Aid donations, and we encourage as many as possible who care for our church to make regular donations in this way. Other sources include second-hand book sales in the Village Hall, which made £111 in the year.

Nicholas Bostock 04/04/24