**Appendix E**

**Report on Ingestre Church – April 2024**

St Mary the Virgin Church of Ingestre continues to be both a beautiful place of worship and an interesting architectural building, attracting fairly regular numbers of visitors. This peaceful place with lovely ceilings and plasterwork is unique as the only church outside London designed by Sir Christopher Wren.

The church is open every day between 10 and dusk.

We have services every 2 weeks, 2nd Sunday in the month is Morning Prayer and 4th Sunday Holy Communion.

Our congregation has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels, usually between 12 and 25 worshippers. Of these only 7 are from Ingestre with others coming from Stafford, Tixall, Haywood and Stoke on Trent. For special services, notably our Carol Service we have in excess of 80 attendees! We put banners up at the crossroads to let people know when these services are happening.

The Carol Service is particularly popular as we provide mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread after the service and people have time to mingle and chat!

This year we have 6 weddings and a wedding blessing booked and have recently had 2 baptisms.

Our peal of 6 bells is rung for all services and of course for weddings.

To help raise funds we have 2 concerts booked, Chris Gumbley on 14th July and Fish from Oblivion on 8th December.

Collections and donations do not unfortunately cover all our outgoings as our 1676 church is always in need of repair! The repairs identified by the architect in our quinquennial would take all the money in our bank accounts and more besides!