**Report on Ingestre Church for Ingestre and Tixall Annual Parish meeting, 17th May 2023**

**Services**

The church holds 2 services a month at 11.15am on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer and the 4th Sunday of the month, Holy Communion

In addition, we have a Carol Service on a Wednesday before Christmas and Midnight Mass at 11.30 on 24th December every year. A Holy Communion service is held on Easter Sunday, regardless of whether it falls on a 2nd or 4th Sunday.

A Wedding Preparation service is held one evening every February for couples planning to marry in the Benefice

**2022/2023**

Our church is the only church outside London designed by Sir Christopher Wren and in the last 12 months has had visitors from Australia, the USA, France, Germany and Spain as well as from all parts of the UK. The church is open daily in daylight hours for visitors.

We have a website, stmaryschurch-ingestre.co.uk which is regularly updated by Bob Cullen and a page on ‘A Church near You’.

In 2022, 8 weddings and 5 baptisms took place in our church and in December we hosted a concert by Fish from Oblivion which was very well attended.

Our churchyard continues to be beautifully maintained by Rob Thompson and tree surgeons have recently attended to several yew trees.

Our 6 bells are rung for Sunday services and weddings. They were rung after the death of Queen Elizabeth, on the day of her funeral and very recently on the 6th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

Our regular congregation numbers between 12 and 25, with only between 7 and 10 coming from Ingestre itself. However, according to our Rector this is way above the average for the country as a whole!

The major challenge for Ingestre Church is how to increase our income to match our current costs of £1500 a month.