

# A Letter from Our Churchwardens



Harvest Festivals have been important events in country churches for hundreds of years. A chance for the community to get together and to give thanks for the work of our farmers who work tirelessly through the year. This year the Harvest Service at St. John's in on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> and we hope you would like to come along to sing the traditional harvest hymns and celebrate the tremendous produce of our local area.



That same weekend on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our annual church Open Day and Gift Day. The theme this year will be "All Good Gifts Around Us", using a phrase from a favourite harvest hymn. Our exhibits will celebrate the gifts and talents of people and groups across the village, as well as the traditional harvest displays. It would be wonderful to see lots of visitors in church, there's always a lovely atmosphere and plenty of home-baked treats too!

We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful church in our village. There has been a place of worship on that site since 950 AD and we know that its presence is valued by our community. Acting as a place of celebration, at Easter, Christmas, in baptisms and weddings, the church also offers ongoing support in tough times such as illness and loss of loved ones. We don't get any funding from the Church of England or the government to maintain this historic building, so to keep the church going we really need your support. If you would be willing to help in practical ways, for example with helping keep the church yard tidy, or keeping the church clean please let us know – we'd love to hear from you. If you can offer financial support, a gift on our Open Day would be hugely appreciated. We are probably going to have to replace the church roof in the near future – watch this space!

With Rona away on her sabbatical leave we are very grateful to the fantastic team of retired clergy in the parish who are supporting us by running services and helping with pastoral care. Please do not hesitate to contact us through the parish office (01963 250248) if there is anything we can do to support you or your family.

We look forward to seeing you on our Open Day.

*Susan Wales and Nicki Edwards*