

## A LETTER FROM NICKI EDWARDS SEPTEMBER 2026

Nicki Edwards, the Milborne Benefice Liaison Officer, explained last month that we have entered a “period of vacancy” following Rev. Rona’s departure. Whilst we search for a new priest for St John’s and the other churches in the benefice, life will continue much as before. The day to day running of the church will fall upon the shoulders of the members of the Parochial Church Council who, alongside Helen our benefice administrator, will ensure services and life events will continue to be held, and that the church building will remain open on a daily basis for anyone who wishes to use it.



On to other practical matters. Following some scorching heat over the summer months, the roof repairs have been completed, and it was with some relief that, following one or two heavy downpours, no leaks have occurred. Repairs to the stonework on the interior and exterior of the building were also completed in similarly high temperatures. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to support the fund-raising effort – either by donating, buying, contributing, or running and supporting events. Without your support and generosity these necessary repairs would not have taken place.

Fund raising will need to continue however: at the time of writing, we await the final bill from the builders, which will be in the region of £26,000. Although a good part of the total cost of the roof repairs has already been met, we will still need to work in earnest to ensure there are sufficient funds available to continue with work in repairing and restoring our Grade 1 listed church building. The west window is next on the list to be looked at and the organ and heating system could well need attention in the near future.

To this end, please come to a concert in St John’s church on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm**. It will be given by the **Foresail Shanty Group**, who come from Cornwall and are performing locally elsewhere over that weekend. There will be a **quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November** and a **Christmas Tree Festival in December**. So, watch out for further details.

*Susan Wales Churchwarden to St John’s*