

Our starting point is that the church belongs to the parish and the church is there for everyone, in good times and other. We are in the process of establishing a Steering Committee which to the best of our ability will represent the interests of all villagers. We have approached a number of people, however, if you would like to get involved please contact the Secretary.

Serving the Community

When Christ established his church the rock he used was a person - Peter. Virtually all his dealings were with people who came to him for help, both physical and spiritual.

As Christians we aim to follow the example set by Christ. However, easier said than done. It is clear that we need to provide "services" that people would want to come to, but more importantly we must go out to engage the wider community.

We need to work and pray about this. We would very much welcome you thoughts and ideas. What would you like the Church to provide? What would you like to offer? Can it lead to a meeting of minds and people?

Contact numbers on the back.

Church Officers

Rector	Richard Ireson (585237)
Churchwardens	Andrew Usborne (585829) Robert Cornford (585327)
Treasurer	Susan Hodson (585643)
Secretary	Percy Hunt (586131)

Religious Thoughts?

Religion is different from everything else; because in religion seeking is finding.

Willa Cather

Every day people are straying away from church and going back to God.

Lenny Bruce

One is all for religion until one visits a really religious country. Then one is all for drains, machinery and a minimum wage.

Aldous Huxley

"The Christian ideal", it is said, "has not been tried and found wanting: it has been found difficult and left untried"

G. K. Chesterton

Future Church News

Will be posted on the Village Website

www.boothby.org.uk

St Andrew's Church Boothby Pagnell February 2009



**Sunday 24th May at
10:00am**

**Dedication of the Bells
by Bishop of Grantham**

Not so Fast!

I note with a degree of shame that this newsletter was promised for February 2008. Although I also notice that we thought the bells could be in place by then as well. So we turn out to be slow and steady like the tortoise, albeit over-promised.

However, we need to up the tempo. Whilst during 2008 a substantial amount of work has been taking place in the St Andrews, the finances of the church have deteriorated.

The PCC have decided that we must get our finances on a sound footing so that the future of the church is assured for future generations. We will be following a Funding Programme that has been tried and tested across the Diocese and in around half of the North Beltisloe parishes.

(continued overleaf)

He gives power to those who are tired and worn-out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted and young men will give up. But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40 : 29 - 31

The Church

After four years the bells project is complete. The final delay occurred in the summer of 2008 in order that the bats (3 varieties) would not be disturbed. However, thereafter things moved at a pace and the bells were in position and rung for the first time prior to the Carol Service on the 18th Dec. They made a great and joyful sound, particularly for those who had worked so hard throughout the project - no doubt at times during the four years they wondered whether they would ever hear them ringing in the tower. (See the website for further details).

The schemes to enhance the lighting throughout the church and to improve the heating are complete. Thus the church is brighter and the resiting of the new heating elements means that the pews feel warm even if the temperature of the surrounding air is not greatly increased.

A review of the church vestments and materials identified that the storage conditions were inadequate. A local cabinet maker has made a cupboard, for us, which now houses the vestments in suitable conditions. The restoration of the fabrics is a

North Beltisloe Group

The group comprises 10 parishes under the leadership of the Rev Richard Ireson. During his 3 years incumbency Richard has worked, with the help of others, to revitalise the group. He instigated the group service (all the parishes come together to worship in one place) and was instrumental in the formation of a choir to sing on these occasions.

From the start of 2009 the first Sunday of each month is a group service, as well as a number of other special occasions - Advent Sunday will be one when the service will be at St Andrews.

He has encouraged others to help him with his work and this came to fruition (or at least completed a first step) when 8 parishoiners - Jacqueline Bell, Diane Burrows, Tony Clayton, Percy Hunt, Fred Mann, Jan Saunders and Diane Watson, were licensed as lay ministers at a special Candlemas service at Bourne Abbey on Sunday 1st of February. The licensing was conducted by Rev Andy Hawes, the Rural Dean. Particular thanks to Revs. Jo Saunders and Hillary Geisow who led the training and remained enthusiastic