

REPORT FOR WITNESHAM AND SWILLAND PARISH COUNCIL AGM 18th April 2018

SWILLAND CHURCH

We continue to be a Companion Church with Ashbocking. We have unfortunately lost our Locally Ordained Minister, Catherine Beaumont, who had special responsibility for Swilland and Ashbocking, but we continue with services taken by our Rector, Clare Sanders, or a member of the Ministry Team. People from other parishes in the Benefice frequently attend our services.

Two families have moved into the village who support the Church.

We are currently doing a feasibility study to install a toilet and small kitchen. There is no official building in the village and we feel that this will enable the church to be used for indoor community events. This will be very costly and will require major fund raising and applications for grants. Any help from the Parish Council would be greatly appreciated.

Adrian Ward, who has looked after the churchyard for 43 years has had to retire due to ill health. For the last few years he has given his services at no cost. Grass cutting after Adrian retired has been done by members of the PCC but we will have to have a more permanent arrangement. Again any help from the Parish Council towards the maintenance of the Churchyard would be greatly appreciated.

Some repairs have been done to the Church during the year at a cost of £3234 and trees have been trimmed professionally at a cost of £576.

We had a working party during the year to tidy the extremities of the Churchyard and to clean gutters etc. We are most grateful to those who came and helped.

We held our usual Christmas Draw and lunch in Witnesham Village Hall which was well supported.

We went Carol Singing round the villages of Swilland and Ashbocking merging at the Moon and Mushroom pub where Nicki Gavin welcomed us. The money raised was split between Christian Aid and EACH.

Ann Kent