8/5/25 St Bartholomew’s Church Report

Apologies from our churchwarden Christie Peacock who is away on business in Kenya.

Christie submitted the extensive annual report for All Saints North Mendip, the churches of Blagdon, Charterhouse and Ubley. Today we are reporting on St Bartholomew’s Ubley, the church at the centre of the village surrounded by the village burial ground.

2024 was the first year with our leader and rector Katrina and with her husband Phil have been great supporters of village events and have quickly become part of the community.

Priorities include growing the connection with children, young people and their families, and developing worship patterns including trying new things.

The church is always open during daylight hours; we would like to record a big thank you to the many villagers who are on the key rota. As well as regular services the church is used to celebrate major festivals, special events and Katrina leads weekly school worship in the church.

Its extended use includes regular bell ringers from Ubley, and the breakfasts and lunches that encourage villagers to meet up. Green boxes in the porch are a collecting point for the Withywood Food Bank with donations taken each week for distribution.

The Blagdon Newsletter now includes Ubley. It’s free monthly online or £2 for a printed copy (there are 10 issues per year).

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for paying for grass cutting in the churchyard; most recently it was cut a couple of days ago. Weather permitting every third Saturday morning working parties improve the state of the churchyard – thank you to all that come.

Last year we had expensive tree work done; the largest yew had dead wood removed and we had the periodic assessment of internal decay of the beech tree.

Today the church has just under £7000 in its accounts. 2025 is likely to be expensive because we await our once every 5 years survey report; then we will learn what needs doing for the church to remain safe and usable for future generations.