

GODOLPHIN EDWARDS CHARITY

Report to the Acton Burnell Parish Council 2022

Our physical meetings over the last 12 months have once again been limited due to the pandemic, but we have responded to a small number of applications to the charity for help as they have been presented to us. A number of grants have been made which have been mainly educational grants. We do encourage people to apply for grants, particularly if there is a case of financial need.

It might be helpful to briefly outline the scope of the charity. The 'area of benefit' as described in the Charity Commission document is the area comprising the Parishes of Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Langley and Ruckley. The trustees consist of 5 being the Rector of the parish of Frodesley as ex-officio, and further trustees representing the Parish Council, the parish churches and the local communities in the area of benefit.

The area of benefit of the charity is to those 'who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons'.

The Secretary/Treasurer completes an annual return to the Charity Commissioners on an annual basis.

Rev Geoff Garrett

The Parishes of St. Mary's Acton Burnell, St. Mark's Frodesley and Michael and All Angels Pitchford Report to the Acton Burnell Parish Council 2022

As with everything else our 'in person' activities have been disrupted by the pandemic. Our services have been by Zoom during lockdowns with a Benefice wide email of a Sunday Service and once we were allowed to meet back together in our churches this has been tentative and slow to get back to some kind of normality. Our fund raising activities have been hit as well and we have not been able to hold the Acton Burnell Fete for the last two years except in 2021 we did hold an 'outdoor' socially distanced Acton Burnell Bash. Most of our other regular and one off events in the other churches were badly hit and most were unable to go ahead, although we did manage one or two small events. The Harvest Supper has also been unable to go ahead during the pandemic. We have completed some repair, general maintenance and restoration work on our buildings in the last 12 months and the projects to install toilets and refreshment facilities at Frodesley and Acton Burnell, including a small screened off gathering area for the community in Frodesley, have received general approval from the church authorities, which generally means that the plans should get the formal go-ahead and planning (faculty) approval from the Diocesan Chancellor. The challenge now is to raise the appropriate funding through grants and donations. Frodesley church is now officially a 'Festival Church' which means that we celebrate the main Christian Festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest and that our other services through the year will be in celebration of the agricultural year. So that in January we hold a Plough Sunday Service (blessing the plough), in May we hold a Rogation Sunday Service (celebrating planting the seed) which is this coming Sunday at 3pm, in August we hold a Lammas Service (celebrating the barley harvest) and over the other months of the year there are a variety of services we can introduce. For instance in June we are holding a Hedgerow abundance or Jam Jar flower festival service (19th June at 3pm), in July we will be holding a St. Swithen or scarecrow Sunday service and the rest of the year is open to the imagination as to what we can do.

It is hoped that we can begin the annual Langley Chapel service again in September.

Rev Geoff Garrett