



The Cirl Bunting is the UK's rarest farmland bird. The entire breeding population is found between Exeter and Plymouth.

Coffinswell Parish Council

Serving the Communities of
Coffinswell & Dacombe

Parish News Community Use of St Bartholomew Church.

The Parish Church of St Bartholomew has always played an important part in serving the needs of the communities of Coffinswell and Dacombe since the formation of the Parish in around 1326.

The Church not only serves the religious and pastoral needs of the Parish but has also provided a meeting place for community activities and meetings over the years. Whilst this usage has somewhat waned in recent years, the Parish Council still use the Church for all its meetings.

Parish Churches throughout the country have been under threat for many years now. This being due to a number of factors, the current financial situation, falling attendances and prohibitive maintenance costs and our Parish Church is no exception.

With these costs in mind the Parish Council have for a number of years provided the Church a grant towards the cost of the maintenance of its grounds and Churchyard.

However in the latter part of 2021 the Parish Council was advised by the National Association of Local Councils that this type of grant did not comply with financial regulations and as such the decision was made, with great reluctant, to cease this grant.

Notwithstanding it was felt that the Parish Council should continue to support the Church and the community in the best way we could. Therefore it was decided that the funding previously allocated to the Church should be redirected to the community use of the Church for activities other than religious usage.

In simple terms the Parish Council have re allocated the previously mentioned grant with a Parish hire cost budget for this type of use.

Examples could be community social events/planning meetings, regular social group meetings Parish Fairs etc with the hourly hire costs of the Church for these types of activities being met by the Parish Council.

It is hoped that this community usage would assist the Church to re establish its very important position within the community whilst improving its financial position.

Given that this is a new initiative funds are limited in this first year and the usage on this basis would have to be agreed prior to any activity being undertaken.

However it is envisaged that this administration would be a simple process of agreeing eligibility and checking availability with the Parish Clerk.

If successful this initiative would greatly increase the usage and importance of the Church to the Parish whilst providing its residents the opportunity to develop more community interactions.

All the financial details for this scheme is contained within the Chairmans Annual Budget and precept report which available on the Parish Website.

The Parish Clerk is Juliette Thompson who can be contacted on telephone 01626 863811 or at Coffinswellparishcouncil@outlook.com