

Brief Outline of Support from the local community

St Nicholas Church Arrington:

Church and its place in the local community

St Nicholas Church Arrington, by its Grade I listing and as the oldest building in this small rural community is regarded as special. It is a significant building for the community, even for those who may not be regular church goers but help to support the church financially through the Parish Giving Scheme or giving their time volunteering or helping at events.

The community values the church in the village, and it is well supported at key services - Christmas and at public events. The community also supports volunteer work in the churchyard. The churchyard is managed for biodiversity and the church was pleased to receive a silver award for churchyard management from the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants. We added another silver award in May 2024 from A Rocha given for how we use our church building and churchyard; this makes St Nicholas one of 11 churches in Ely Diocese to gain the award. We hold an annual 'What's in your Churchyard' each summer; this attracts people of all ages from the village.

The church is opened daily for the local community and visitors. People visiting the church often light a candle, but there are many reasons why people visit Arrington Church. These include: -

- Those in need of a quiet space to reflect or pray
- Drivers experiencing the cool church during their lunch break on a hot summer's day.
- Local musician who practices in the church because of the acoustics.
- Visitors to nearby Wimpole Estate stopping by
- Visitors to the churchyard come in to light a candle.
- Visitors from the local community coming to services and events – we have held village trails, churchyard days, celebration bell ringing.
- Volunteers who help in the church and churchyard.

There are many more...

The local community are supportive of the church at Arrington. This was recently evident with new people signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. This brings in approximately £180 per month, but it is not enough to pay for the running of the church when unforeseen building works are needed. We have been fortunate in the past with volunteers helping to rehang the bell and a donation for a new church noticeboard, but it increasingly becomes more challenging.

The proposed work has the support of the community and the need to undertake the work was discussed at the recent annual parish meeting.

St Nicholas Arrington
May 2025