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Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Dear friends

## The Future of Garrigill Church – Update 1

Our meeting in Garrigill church certainly seems to have lit a touchpaper! I'm immensely heartened by all the generous responses, and your evident determination to see St John's Church flourish.

Over 40 people looked at the questionnaire, and 28 have offered support in one way or another:

### Financial support

We have already received donations of £260, and promises of regular giving totalling £624 a year, as well as of further one-off donations of £340.

As I mentioned at the meeting, one person with a longstanding affection for Garrigill has offered a five-figure sum, an immensely generous proposal which we hope to be able to use as match funding to obtain grants from charitable trusts.

### Practical support

We have offers of help with cleaning, polishing and flowers; building and churchyard maintenance; thinking of, planning and helping with fundraising events and refreshments; delivering publicity; music and preparation for services. For the project we have offers of help with researching and applying for grants; researching practical issues; mapping the churchyard, developing a trail and assessing biodiversity; planning and writing the exhibition materials and a churchyard leaflet; briefing a designer for the exhibition.

### Preferences for Services

There is significant interest in a wide range of services, with preferences for traditional, informal services with singing and some variety of themes, particularly (though not only) Sunday mornings or afternoons. Most of those who responded indicated they would come at least monthly.

### Events

Excitingly, Angela Drane and the Village Hall committee have very generously offered to run...

- a Spanish themed evening with a meal and live entertainment on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April;
- a jumble sale, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May;
- a monthly café in the village hall [starting in April, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 10am to 3pm], with a stall selling Food By Angela's pies and pasties, and 50% of takings going to church funds.

### Thank you

If you have offered help or a donation, or left other comments or questions, thank you – I'll be in touch with you personally very soon. If you are already supporting us in any way – thank you too, that is hugely appreciated.

*If you haven't heard from me by the end of February, please get in touch – there were a couple of responses without contact details!*

If you'd still like to offer, it's not too late! In particular, if you could offer a regular donation – even £2 or £3 a month – a few such offers would really help our financial security.

### Next meeting

We will hold a second meeting on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm** in church –to give an opportunity for further questions and discussion, to share any further news and to begin to map out a way forward.

### Forthcoming services

As in previous years, the parish Maundy Thursday service will be in St John's Church – a service of Holy Communion lasting about an hour, with a silent vigil until midnight for those who wish to stay – one of the most moving services of the year. That's on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

For the first time in many years, there will also be a service on Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30am (remember to put your clocks forward!)

After that we'll experiment with a range of services, roughly monthly – details to follow.

Thank you all again for your support

See you on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Nash-Williams', written in a cursive style.

Mark Nash-Williams (Revd)