

# **Churchwardens' Report**

## **Vestry Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **Churchwardens**

This meeting sees the end of my first year as a churchwarden, a role that I have found to be very rewarding and much less challenging than I had feared, largely due to the support and guidance of my fellow and veteran warden, Russell James, as well as extensive help from previous wardens and those with close experience of this job. Although Russell and I are termed the “Vicars’ warden” and the “people’s warden” respectively we are both keen to be accessible points of contact for the local community.

### **Ministry**

Although I would not normally see ministry matters as churchwarden issues, the past year has seen one major event affecting all aspects of church business: the installation of Gaynor as Priest-in-Charge. Gaynor has quickly established herself as a popular incumbent and we continue to extend a warm welcome to her.

### **Fabric**

During June 2017 the churchwardens undertook the annual fabric inspection and report, which was followed in December by the Quinquennial Review. The latter being much more detailed and also providing estimates of costs involved with the remedial work required. The total projected costs of immediate, short and medium-term work totals well over £30,000. We shall be setting up a working group to address maintenance issues and we believe a fair amount of the non-critical work could be undertaken by PCC or

village volunteers to an acceptable professional standard. It was noted that the QQR assessed work to the churchyard boundary wall to be of medium-term priority while Russell and Gaynor felt that this item was more critical. Their judgment was vindicated last month when the wall collapsed!

### **Churchyard**

While much of the churchyard is regularly maintained, several areas appear rather neglected. It has been suggested that we organise a village churchyard upkeep day at which we tackle some of the less tidy corners.

### **Costs**

Financial matters are addressed in the Treasurer's report but in respect of one major item of expenditure it was discovered that the heating system had been firing up well in advance of church events. This has now been adjusted but feedback on temperature and comfort are invited.

### **Security**

Church items of value are marked with Smartwater paint. We have a stock of the marker fluid but now need to reapply this.

### **Equipment**

Two churches in the diocese closed recently and some of their effects have been offered to other churches. We have managed to acquire a few office items as well as a dishwasher.

## **Duties and roles**

The routine management of a church requires an extensive and often overlooked army of volunteers to keep things rolling forward. With the help of the PCC I have revised the long list of volunteers and as some of these individuals are now emerging from their second flush of youth I suggest we should try to recruit further volunteers to offer support with these duties.

## **Thanks**

In mentioning these volunteers, I also have to thank them.

For cleaning the church, toilet and washroom: Caroline, Stuart, Kirsten, Pat, Linda and Witek.

For the beautiful flower arrangements: Sue Gill and her helpers.

To Mike Noakes for undertaking the thankless role in charge of health and safety.

To Pat Noakes for accepting the responsibility for safeguarding.

To all who help with children's church.

To all who regularly meet and greet church goers, read prayers and readings, and make teas and coffees.