

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT APRIL 2024

As we're sure many a Churchwardens' Report over the years has started, it's been another busy year at St Andrew's. Works on and around the church building this year include repairs to the organ including replacement of all the leatherwork; tree pruning in the churchyard; new under-sink water heater in the kitchen; investigating and eventually finding the stopcock in the street for the church; holding a blessing and birthday party for our church clock (200 years old) after it had been away for a service and refurbishment; a tidy up and Spring clean in the church and churchyard; installation of a new church noticeboard in the churchyard; consultation with the architect on a possible soakaway on the south side of the building; cleaning of the war memorial (funded by Haileybury OTC), Jackdaws' access to the roof void blocked; replacement downpipe by the Blower Room Door. We are also awaiting a decision from the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the installation of bike racks in the churchyard.

We had been notified by our lettings agency that our curate's house, which is currently let to private tenants, will require some upgrading when the present tenant leaves. In the meantime we were notified about a month ago that there had been a fairly serious leak under the floor in the kitchen which will result in repairs to the kitchen cupboards, the lounge wall and floor. This work is being processed in liaison with our insurers.

We have been researching and planning a new Audio Visual System for the church under the project leadership of Chris Seward, Adrian Walter, Richard Taylor and various members of the PCC. We have had demonstrations from a couple of companies in church and visited others to see their systems. More details at the APCM.

We have thoroughly revised the Church Inventory and checked it. We have located the valuable Spanish Chalice which had been stored for safety. Files in the office have been sorted and the Log Book updated. Registers which are no longer needed in the church safe have been lodged with the County Record Office and Diocesan Archives.

During the past year many events have been organised to encourage people into St Andrew's, entertain them and help them celebrate the Christian festivals in innovative ways. These have included folk gigs, Harvest Fest, Beer and Carols and the Railway Day. These have also formed the main part of our fundraising for the year to help cover the cost of keeping the church open. Outside bodies have also hired the premises for their events. To help with the increasing admin needed nowadays including insurance, risk assessments, Temporary Events Notices (alcohol licences), Performance Rights Society returns etc, we last year appointed Harriet Moore as our volunteer Events Administrator. This provided us all with a steep learning curve, but she has done a wonderful job in this past year keeping on top of every event for which we are extremely grateful.

There are other people who take a huge weight off the shoulders of Churchwardens – Debbie Ledsam and Sue Mulligan (gardening), Phil Probert and Carol Muhr (admin and thinking of everything we've forgotten), Chris Seward – Deputy Churchwarden (events, gigs and so much more), Nick and Judy Sharman, David Kemp and lately Debbie Hartnett (looking after the money), Julie Frazer (our church cleaner), Chrissy Barclay (altar linen washing), the Brass Cleaners, Flower Arrangers and Keith Neat (clockwinding), Sidespersons etc etc. Thank you to you all and also to the whole St Andrew's family for always coming up trumps when help is sought. We couldn't have done it without you all.

Rosemary Willis, Shirley Taylor – Churchwardens