

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT FOR THE APCM 29TH MAY 2022

I am happy to report that the condition of the Church building continues to be satisfactory. Following the damage which occurred during the break in in 2019 it took some considerable time to have everything repaired and, at last, this culminated in the stained glass window in the South Porch being restored at the end of last year.

A Quinquennial Inspection will take place in the Autumn following the restoration work on the Bells being completed.

Peter Rixson, Terry Pigram and I undertake a regular check on both the inside and outside of the Church and we have been able to organise working parties every few months mainly to tidy the outside areas when needing attention. Nigel Turner, together with Terry, has been a stalwart in looking after the Interment area which provides a place for passersby to rest in peace and quiet.

Cowell House is also in good repair and has been let for a further 12 months (from March) with Russell Property overseeing the tenancy with the same family being very happy there. Should we appoint a curate in the not too distant future there will be a need for re-decoration throughout and updating the downstairs cloakroom.

During the pandemic and with Derywn's support we continued to open the Church for a short time each day and it has been a blessing to so many that we have gradually managed to return to some sense of a normal routine of weekday and Sunday services in Church, whilst accommodating some parishioners on Zoom. Many are now confident to attend regularly once again and, indeed, we have seen more communicants on a Wednesday than ever before and offering refreshments at the back of Church each week has been much appreciated. Hospitality in the WCC after the Sunday service has been offered and is now growing in numbers which allows us to welcome newcomers and, especially young families who bring us much joy and love.

I am grateful to my two new deputies, Claire Conquest who has taken on the coffee rotas and Gill Johnson who leads a team of monthly cleaners in the Church building. They have also helped in maintaining ad hoc cleaning in our area of the WCC. This has given them an insight of the more mundane jobs of a Churchwarden which are necessary but allows us time to work together in other areas now and for the future.

I have now completed an extra year as Warden after the statutory 6 years and I could not have managed most recently without the sterling work and support from Peter Rixson and Terry Pigram and to whom I give grateful thanks in their invaluable contributions as members of the Wardens team.

As I mentioned last year when I took on the role 7 years ago and to work with dear Philip Smith I had no idea what it involved and, although it has been a huge responsibility, it has brought me far more satisfaction, joy and hope and what a privilege it has been! I continue on my Christian journey and as June would say I have been truly blessed! Thank you to everyone for their friendship and long may it continue,

Rosemary Thomson
Churchwarden

