

Warden's Report 19th May 2022

It is only ten months since our last Annual meeting, and I am very pleased to report that church life has returned to a much more usual form, certain restrictions due to Covid now lifted. We can again share the peace by shaking hands; although I must say I quite liked hand signalling across the aisles.

The new service pattern across the Benefice was introduced in September, and I think we are getting used to it now. It does mean there is a week when we have no service here but it is hoped this gives us an opportunity to do something different if we wish, and on some of those weeks we have been holding coffee mornings, the first aimed at welcoming new people in the village.

This Saturday come and join us if you can, from 10—12pm, donations will go to Christian Aid.

The new facilities have made such a difference to enabling us to provide refreshments easily and safely on many different occasions. From coffee after the services to afternoon teas during the 'Open Gardens' and the Snowdrop Walks. Thank you David and Sally Duncombe for giving us access to the park to enjoy the snowdrops.

It has been wonderful to have the village school coming back for their services once again. At Christmas and Easter pupils made cards for us to give to some residents, also at Easter, each class had made a garden in a tray with the three crosses and Jesus' tomb among the flowers. These were shared with Little Brickhill and Stoke Hammond.

I think it would be fair to say that whilst we are generally delighted with the refreshment area and toilet facilities, we have had some building problems, not all down to the builder, and the project is taking longer than we would have liked. Aylesbury Vale Planning Department took so long to give the permission for the render colour, by which time the winter weather had set in, and the work could not be done in temperatures below 6 degrees. Supply delays due to Covid meant the resin needed for the path was unavailable, and there are some snagging issues yet to be dealt with.

It will get done, we just have to be patient.

But we are not standing still.

Last evening, the second of a more contemporary service was held, particular thanks to Roger and Sue Blofeld for their help

I have this week received from the architect, plans for the work to replace the north and south aisle roofs with terne coated steel. The tenders will go out next week. This is all very exciting, and I cannot wait to get it done as every time it rains heavily I am concerned the water will come through the ceilings again. The roof felt that was put on in desperation, has worked well but it's life is limited. This of course means we need to raise the money to complete the work. So I would ask you all to help us to fundraise in any way you can.

It is hoped that we can provide a good place for people to come for a variety of reasons. The introduction of fibre optic broadband has enabled us to use a card reader for donations, and been very useful on occasions like the plant sale and Christmas coffee morning.

We have looked into purchasing a screen and projector, and Phillipa has made a grant application for this. Our thanks and appreciation must go to Pelham for his advice.

We have had some very happy occasions in the church over the past year, notably Fiona and Vinny's wedding, several baptisms and the service of Thanksgiving for the new facilities when Bishop Alan 'treated us to an uplifting sermon'.

There have of course been some very sad times. We have said our final farewells to some dear friends, who will always be part of this church and we will remember them always.

I have to thank many of you for the help and support given me as churchwarden. My particular thanks go to Jerry for his role as organist and choir master. We've had some lovely music over the year, especially Easter. Also Andrew and Margretta for the music at the family services, and Sophia for leading the singing.

Thank you John for taking our services, particularly over the Christmas period when it was a difficult time.

Thank you Jeremy, too, for stepping in now and again.

Lastly but not least by any means, thank you Phillipa for everything you do.

Julia Turner
May 2022