

## **St Mary's Ashendon**

### **Report to the Village Meeting April 2019**

Many thanks to Priscilla, Jenny, Peter and David Wallace for leading the services.

Nibbles after the services is now a firm favourite, particularly Imogen's Chocolate Brownies and Banana cake and Felicity's flap jacks. Those who haven't tasted them are missing out. Proper coffee, tea (sorry in tea bags) and soft drinks are also the order of the day.

The Church has always been involved in the social calendar in the village, and again this year Eloise Hepple on behalf of the Red Lion Social Club organised an Easter Egg Hunt, ending up at the Church, just before the Mothering Sunday Service on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was a great success with about 30 children taking part. The day before a Messy Church event was held in the Village Hall, at which posies were made for the Mothering Day service.

Once again the Red Lion Social Club donated one third of the auction proceeds which this year exceeded £1,000. Very many thanks to them for their continued support.

The Church mower finally died and we now have a new model, exactly the same as before, and hope that this one lasts as well as the old one. Since Molly has moved from the village the mower's new home is the village hall store.

We mentioned last year about the Church receiving a legacy which will enable essential repairs and improvements to take place and things have moved on significantly.

In February 2018 a new Church Architect carried out the quinquennial survey, and this together with suggestions from the PCC and parishioners has formed the basis of the works to be carried out.

Briefly, a camera based roof alarm system has been fitted, three phase electricity installed and some improvements made to the electrical circuits. A report was prepared on stonework repairs by stonemasons Boden and Ward and these are being carried out at present. This will include making the stairs to the bell chamber safe.

Applications have been submitted for faculties to

- Rehang the bells and install an electronic striking system, plus to overhaul the Sanctus bell
- Install two wall mounted infra red heaters in the Chancel
- Remove the redundant organ.
- Carry out repairs and renewal to the flooring, relocate the pulpit, repair the font cover, and re-site some pews to the South West of the South Aisle and overhaul and improve the drainage channel around the Church.

Other works not requiring a faculty will be carried out to include the installation of wireless broadband.

The Church finances are healthy, with income at £9,464 and expenditure £9,145 so we were able to live within our means. This excludes monies spent on the refurbishment. The amount in the account at the year end was £200,598, of which about £160,000 will be spent on the refurbishment project.

As always very many thanks to those who dedicate their time and effort in keeping the Church opened and maintained.

**For Cleaning and Flowers** Pam Rand, Shirley Rand, Sian Miller, Richard Lewin, Sue Lewin, Jan Pike, Geoff Pimm, Ruth Pimm, Margaret Lloyd, Carol Smith, Kym Rabone, Liz Johnson, Gill Walker, Michael Rand, Susan Rand, Vanessa Bates, Felicity Smettem, Katy Jamieson, Luke Jamieson, Vicky Ewers-Blue, Imogen Holbrook, Suzie Crwys-Williams, Ginny de Lusingnan, Georgina Meadows-Smith, Richard Bates and Peter Smettem.

**For Opening and Locking the Church** Imogen Holbrook and Felicity and Peter Smettem Peter Johnson, Sue and Chris Paine.

**For organising the front Churchyard Mowing** Peter Smettem

**For Organising the bottom Churchyard Mowing** Paul Horwood

**For Mowing the Churchyard** Peter Johnson, Richard Bates, Richard Phillips, Joe and Andy Howes, Peter Smettem, Luke Jamieson, Martin Saunders, Paul de Lusignan, Julian Chester, Paul Horwood, Ashley Holbrook, Richard Lewin, and Gill Walker.

**For Hedge Cutting** Richard Bates. Peter Smettem and Peter Johnson

**For Weed Killing the Pathways** Chris Paine

**For storing the Churchyard Mower** Molly Boughton

**For Playing the organ over Christmas and Easter** Thomas Johnson

**For compiling the Bernwode News** Richard Lewin

**For collecting the Bernwode News annual subscription and delivering the Bernwode News** Kevin and Mary Nash

**For preparing the Altar for Holy Communion** Imogen Holbrook and Felicity Smettem

**For cleaning the brass** Liz Johnson and Vanessa Bates.

**For producing the Christingles** Kym Rabone and family

**For organising the Church Bazaar** Pam and Shirley Rand

**For helping with the church Bazaar** Jan Pike, Margaret Lloyd, Liv Rand, Mary Simmons, Kym Rabone, Suzie Crwys-Williams, Carol Smith, Liz Johnson and Peter Smettem

**For organising, preparing and helping on the night for the Harvest Supper** Felicity Smettem, Sarah Chester, Vanessa Bates, Imogen Holbrook, Vicky Ewers-Blue, Suzie Crwys-Williams, Peter Johnson, Eloise Hepple, Katy Jamieson, Peter Smettem, Pam Rand, Shirley Rand, and Tans Theobald.

**For Refreshments after the Services** Imogen Holbrook and Felicity Smettem

**For Administrative duties** Kevin Nash as Treasurer, Peter Johnson as PCC Secretary and Gift Aid Secretary, Imogen Holbrook as Churchwarden and Roger Pike for circulating service details.

Many thanks to the Red Lion Social Club who again donated a third of the Red Lion Social Club Christmas auction proceeds to St Mary's.

Peter Smettem and Imogen Holbrook

