

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2017

2016 was another busy year as more of the work identified in the 2014 Quinquennial Inspection Report was carried out. We had the usual list of mundane, but essential, tasks in order to maintain and improve the fabric of the church and church hall. Once again, much of what has been achieved has only been possible through the generous donation of time and money by members of the congregation.

Examples of some of the work undertaken over the past twelve months are as follows:

Church

- **Tower Hopper and Downpipe**

The hopper has been secured to the wall and the downpipe repaired.

- **New Altar Heaters**

A generous anonymous donation allowed for the replacement of heaters at the Altar with the result that the sanctuary is significantly warmer.

Church Grounds

During the last week of February 2017 Hunter and Sons reduced the crown of the oak tree standing on the south side of the grounds and removed the Portuguese Laurel bushes and stumps located at the north-west edge of the church. Regular grass cutting by our two tame 'Gardiners' (twin brothers who carry out the work at cost) means the grounds at both the church and hall are well kept. As ever with keeping the grounds clean and tidy there is a lot of personal hard work not only by the wardens but also by members of the congregation who, for example, assist with clearing away the many bags of grass cuttings after each cut. We are immensely grateful for all the help we receive.

Church Hall

All the guttering on the church hall was replaced and both internal and external re-decoration was carried out during last summer's school break. We arranged for all the radiator covers to be removed, radiators cleaned and bled over the recent Christmas period in order to maximise heating efficiency. Sadly the temperature control unit in the boiler cupboard has been tampered with on several occasions by person/persons unknown so we have replaced the lock on the door and keys are now held only by the wardens and hall manager. Hopefully this should address the complaints made by some regular hall users about erratic temperatures. The beams above the stage have been cleaned and painted whilst the St Augustine's shield that was removed when we re-decorated has been re-fitted. The large shed, currently used as storage by the pre-school, is starting to lean sideways. We'll investigate what action needs to be taken but the worst case scenario is that we may have to replace the shed. A quote to replace the broken hot water boiler in the kitchen and the kitchen florescent lights has been obtained and the work will be carried out probably over the Easter school break.

Miscellaneous:

- **Website:** The website continues to develop, now with well over 160,000 'hits'. The site continues to be a very valuable resource with several enquiries being received by the clergy for weddings and other events as a direct result of the Church and its activities being publicised in this way. The site includes a page dedicated to the Deanery and if you look under the 'useful info' tab you'll also find information on the Southend Community Safety Partnership and links to other useful websites such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Southend Borough Council and information about how to keep yourself safe on the internet. We average between 30 – 50 hits a day on the site, but it was interesting to note that on Christmas Eve the hit count went up to 120 as presumably people checked details of Crib services etc.

Work carried forward to 2017:

- **Church Floor:** We are still waiting for a response from the contractor to reseal a test portion of the floor and then quote for the work.
- **Feasibility Study into new Toilet Facilities:** We have been in contact with two architects who have quoted for designing/building an extension. We will assess these, together with the quote already received from our official architect, and move forward from there.

In conclusion:

By the time of this year's APCM David will have served the maximum 6 years in office. As many of you will already be aware, David and Lynnis will be moving away after Easter and for these reasons he will not be standing for re-election. David and Lynnis hope to return for occasional services when possible but meanwhile we shall miss the church family at St Augustine's and wish each and every one of you all the very best of health and happiness for the future.

Peter and Lynn will also be relocating during the coming months, it was originally intended that Peter would remain as warden until the move, however as the move is now likely to take place in the next couple of months it makes little sense to stand for re-election. Peters' 4 years in office have been a real education for him and he's gained a real sense of satisfaction from his time as warden. With Lynn as PCC secretary for the last 5 years St Augustine's has been a very large part of Barron family life during our time here in Thorpe Bay, we will miss you all very much and you have our very best wishes.

We sincerely hope that one or more members of the congregation will step forward before, or at the APCM, to take up the vacancies for warden. We have been extremely grateful for all the help and support we have received over the past years from the team of Deputy Wardens: Fred, Martin and Sarah plus members of the congregation. We would particularly like to thank those of you who volunteer as sidemen, chalice bearers, flower arranger(s), refreshment servers or in whatever capacity (especially if you bake or buy chocolate cake!), in helping to maintain St Augustine's as a thriving community within the wider community of Thorpe Bay. Thank You.

David Dean and Peter Barron

April 2017