

## Churchwardens' report to the APCM 2020

Our year started with inspections. We had the quinquennial inspection of the church, the quinquennial inspection of the electrical fittings in both church and hall and the annual inspections of fire extinguishers, portable appliances and the hall gas supply. All were very satisfactory but, on recommendation, a fire blanket was obtained for the sanctuary in case a candle overturns.

Also, Rev Louise Williams came to inspect our record keeping, etc. This is now a triennial rather than a yearly event. Our efforts were approved but henceforth we need to keep fuller records of routine checks and to produce risk assessments.

In June we were required to attend a Safeguarding course which was most informative. (We now have C2 as well as C1 certificates.) Safer Recruiting is the current policy. A few minutes of form-filling gives very desirable protection.

Thanks to generous benefactions and donations, the massive work of refurbishing the bells and their framework was accomplished, additional lighting was added to the bell chamber, the altar spotlights were replaced and the vestibule woodwork restored. Repainting of another stretch of the building must be our next target.

Damage to the south-east and east windows was repaired, the church locks overhauled, the vestry floors sanded and sealed, new dimmers and low energy LED bulbs fitted and a new rug acquired for the west end of the church.

Our buildings were undamaged by winter storms but one of our lovely cedar trees required major surgery.

The proposed extension is much in our minds but, at the time of writing, we still await planning approval.

She may seldom be seen but Sally Tonge keeps the church clean and tidy. We are most grateful to her for all she does (much of it over and above the job description), to Ruth Oliff for enriching our worship with exquisite floral art, to Simon La Mare for keeping the woodworm at bay and to all the other volunteers who help us with assorted routine tasks such as refreshments, laundry, removal of grass cuttings, etc. David Magor continues to tend the flowerbeds and Community Service teams have cut grass, cleaned brass – and decorated our Christmas tree.

The hall is in good hands. We were delighted that Jen Withers accepted appointment as Hall Manager. She does a great job in ensuring that all runs smoothly and we have had no complaints about Stefan's cleaning. With coronavirus in mind he is taking care to ensure that kitchen surfaces and the toilets, on a daily basis, are bleached or washed with a solution anti-bacterial fluid and boiling water. With the hall, as with the church, a little extra attention to cleaning and personal hygiene, added to common sense constraints, should see us through.

It became necessary to replace the hall boiler and heating pump. There seems to be a problem with some of the radiator valves which the plumber has promised to rectify at the annual inspection. The hall floor was re-varnished during the Christmas break.

Of course there are all sorts of little jobs that emerge and are not worthy of particular mention (Martin's ladders could now probably find their own way to the church) and many of these have been dealt with by Father Chris. Thank you, Chris, we shall miss you for many reasons.

Our responsibilities are lightened by the help and support of our clergy, the church employees, big-hearted volunteers and the Community Service people. We are very aware of how much is done on our behalf and thank you all most sincerely.

Martin and Mhoira