

# Building and Fabric Team Annual Report 2018

The team wish to express their thanks to the many members of the Church family who have carried out various tasks and have given generously of their time and talents during the last year, for which we are all very grateful.

The team would like to express their thanks to Jane Gorrie, our Verger, who looks after our Church building on a day to day basis. Thanks also go to Paul Kirkbride who has taken on the role of assistant verger and Church Centre manager this year. Along with a number of volunteers, who week in week out assist with the smooth running of our building, we express our grateful thanks.

The team would also like thank all the cleaners who work hard every week to keep our Church and Church Centre clean and tidy. Thanks must also go to the flower arrangers who, week in week out, produce beautiful floral displays to enhance our lovely building.

The team would also like to thank the immense number of the Church family who contributed in any way to putting up and taking down the Christmas trees and crib and for the refreshments provided by Pam & Martin Dexter. It is great that so many of our Church family work together at events such as these during the year.

In the autumn of 2017 Steve Benson 'retired' from cutting the grass in the Church Yard. We are very grateful for the care and attention to detail he has shown to keep our Church Yard looking so beautiful over the years.

The '**Thanks A Million**' (TAM) project teams (Church and Church Centre) have become established this year and have started to seek out funds to carry out our projects to the Church and Church Centre.

Our **Church Centre Team** is led by Janet Palmart

In September, after having presentations from three architects practices, we appointed J. D. Clarke Architects (Eastbourne) to take on the task of overseeing our Church Centre project. They have presented their first thoughts to the St. Mary's DCC and currently further discussions are taking place to determine more precise details about the accommodation we want to provide for the Pre-school, Church and wider community use.

Our **Church Team** is led by Glynn Wright

In November we welcomed a team from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) who visited to views our plans for our next phase of work, internal alterations to the South Aisle and accessibility improvements around the Church. We received a favourable report which will form the basis of our future proposals. We look forward to appointing an Architect this year to run and oversee this project.

## **Bellringers Report**

In 2017 we rang Sunday mornings and some Sunday evenings when required. We also rang for 18 weddings 10 less than in 2016 I am grateful for ringers from other towers who help us out for weddings.

The bells continue to be well maintained by members of the band.

Several of us still help out at Lower Beeding and Rusper who without our help would not be able to ring.

There have been occasions recently when we have struggled to ring because of lack of numbers. We are looking at ways to recruit new ringers and have a stall on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Horsham Library where they are holding a Local Societies Fair. We again had a Christmas collection instead of sending Christmas Cards and sent £80 to the Alzheimer's Society

On the social side we have enjoyed a Tower Dinner several Breakfasts and have enjoyed several outings and events joining in with other local Towers.

**Val Burgess Tower Captain**

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## FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

We continue to arrange the Church flowers weekly during the year apart from during Advent and Lent. This means that people on the rota arrange the flowers three or four times a year and are responsible for replacing any as necessary. On major festivals we all join together and make up a team to beautify the Church.

We also have three of our arrangers who continue to arrange wedding flowers as and when needed under the direction of Carol Stalley.

At present we have 14 people on the rota – the same as last year – but we do need some more people to join us as some of us are becoming rather aged. If interested in doing some flower arranging even if you have no experience please do contact me via the Church Office on 01403 253762.

I end by thanking everyone on the rota for their help and support during the last year – always making our lovely Church more beautiful.

**Sheila Glaysher**

## Projects completed during 2017-2018

**Health and Safety** - Continues to be regularly reviewed at the Building and Fabric Team meetings.

The annual **testing**, including electrical and PAT have been carried out during the last year. The Lightning conductor test will be carried out in due course.

We continue to monitor the Church **Maintenance plan** and carry out tasks as they arise.

The **Church yard gardening team** (led by Manny Holden) has continued to carry out work keeping our Church Yard tidy. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped out during the year. We are also grateful to HDC for the ground clearance work they have continued to carry out during the course of this year.

The **Shed** had its electricity supply restored this year and we are grateful to Francois Van Schalkwyk and his team who dug trenches to lay the cables.

Repair work had to be carried out to a stained glass panel in the **Church porch** following damage caused we believe by vandals. The cost of this work was covered by our insurance.

A new humidity controlled extractor fan has been installed in the **Bethany kitchen** in an attempt to reduce the condensation.

A major project during 2017 was to carry out urgent repair work to the **Church roof**. This work was partly funded by a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, a loan from the Archdeacon and money raised from our Thanks A Million (TAM) appeal. The total cost of this work was in the region of £245,000. The main focus of the work was to replace broken Horsham stones on the roof which were causing major water ingress. Whilst scaffolding was in place for the urgent work to be carried out other important work, including removing vegetation growing on the roof and replacing and re-pointing a number of pieces of Horsham stone, was undertaken. Significant work to repair the valley gutters (South side of the Church) was also carried out.

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The roof works were carried out by DBR Ltd and overseen by our Architect Simon Dyson (HMDW Chichester). A gift, in memory of John Ebdon, enabled a new access ladder to be installed in the Bell tower to assist with safe access into the Church roof void so that future internal roof inspections can be carried out.

## Projects for 2018 and beyond

The two 'Thanks A Million' teams will be working hard to raise funds for our two main projects to get underway over the coming years. Both projects are going to require significant funds if we are to fulfil our vision for St. Mary's Church in its future role in the life of Horsham in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To finalise a proposal for the Church Centre building layout with all interested parties and then plan for its subsequent delivery.

To appoint an architect and to submit a Faculty application for the proposed internal works phase in our Church renewal plan.

To finish the redecoration of the **Bethany toilets and kitchen**.

Various repairs in around the Church including, damaged floor tiles and broken steps in the Bell Tower.

Preparing for our next **Quinquennial Inspection** due in 2018.

To replace our Church **sound mixing desk** with one that can be controlled remotely from different places around the Church building.

Steve Benson / Nigel Stalley