

Warden's report. Holy Trinity April 2019

It has been an interesting year one way or another.

Messy Church continues to be very successful. We are still providing activities and food for more than 100 people each time. Unfortunately, our February half term Messy Church had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. Many thanks to all those involved in the planning, organising and preparation that goes on beforehand.

Christmas services were well attended as usual but a health emergency at one of the services meant that the service was unable to continue. The joint parish New Year's Eve service was held at St Mary's but was organised by Natalie Loveless from St Leonard's church. Several members of our congregation attended that service.

A few people attended the Inspiring Worship in Music course over several weeks, which enabled us to look at different ways of presenting music in our services. The initiatives are still ongoing and can be introduced gradually so that people can become accustomed to one change at a time. One suggestion that has been implemented is to invite members of the congregation to choose their favourite hymn for a service and explain to the congregation why it is special to them.

The summer fayre was not as successful as was hoped, partly because it took place September to avoid clashes with other local summer events, but also because there were not enough activities or helpers available. The plans for this year's Farmyard Fun Day are well under way. If you are able to help in any capacity or have any ideas, please speak to Bob or Jan. The Christmas Bazaar was more successful and thanks go to Angela Haydon and her team for organising this.

In November there was a moving service by Tideway, commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1. Thanks to Peter Scofield for arranging this.

The firepits and carols event was less successful this year partly due to the rain, and because there were three events on successive Saturday evenings. Even though it was raining, the firepits outside were lovely and warm. However, the Dinner and Dem was a success as usual, with Di providing us with a delicious meal served by some of the men and younger members of the congregation, and Angie giving her wonderful and entertaining demonstration of flower arranging.

My thanks go to anyone who is involved in any way with the running of the church; especially Father David and Father Bernard for conducting the services, to the servers, welcomers, the band, choir, organists, sacristans, flower arrangers and cleaners. Thanks to Susie for becoming the safeguarding officer and Hazel who is now our treasurer. There are many other jobs that many people do quietly behind the scenes and I am grateful to all of you, even if you are not mentioned by name.

We still need your help and support to volunteer to carry out various tasks needed so if any of you are able to help or know of any people outside of church that may have some of the skills that we need, we would love to hear from you. We have been doing what we can to raise funds for various things that need to be done in the church, but we always welcome fresh ideas and of course the help that goes with it.

Recently there has been a Parish review undertaken by the DCC and PCC involving the four churches in our parish and overseen by Archdeacon Fiona and Reverend David Beale. You have already heard of the proposal for St John's to become a parish in its own right, due to the large housing development taking place in the area. Other recommendations will no doubt come to light, once the full report has been received.

It is unfortunate that Father David is not able to take services at the moment, but be assured that everything is being done that can be done, to ensure the smooth running of the services. We pray that he will be restored to full health as soon as possible.

Irene Gettins, Church Warden