

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT ANNUAL MEETING – JULIA TURNER

Tuesday 16th May 2023

Good evening,

I would like to start by thanking the members of the PCC for their support throughout the year, and to welcome our new members, Sophia and Stuart. Thank you Phillipa for the slideshow. It is a lovely way to remind us of what we have been up to throughout the year.

How different the last twelve months has been compared to the previous one with its Co-vid restrictions. It was a joy to prepare the Communion table on Christmas Day with the beautiful old silver chalice. A reminder of the history of this church and those who have gone before, and the different challenges they have faced.

We continue to do our best to look after the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church. Due to the rising costs of electricity and gas, we have been keeping the heating low in an effort to reduce costs.

Andrew Smith did a thermal report, showing us where we are losing the most heat, and where we might make some savings. We have agreed to place a reflective panel behind the radiator in the children's corner, and we propose to draughtproof the door in the Lady Chapel. Further consideration into insulation in the ceiling panels is being given in conjunction with the architect.

The bees in the south aisle roof were beginning to be a problem inside the church. The ventilation hole in the plaster has been temporarily taped up, which seems to have done the trick for now. A more permanent solution will need to be addressed when work on the roof commences.

It was good to welcome Val Plumb and Gavin Merrilees here for an informal church inspection last September.

The quinquennial is due next year. Our architect Adrian Ringrose will undertake this.

I am very grateful to all those who are involved in the community of this church. Thank you John for the guidance and fellowship that you give us in different ways. Thank you Jeremy and Phillipa for taking services, and arranging readers.

I would like to thank Jerry for the wonderful music he gives us, and for the time he gives to the Brickhills Choir.

I always enjoy hearing the bells, and this year there have been extra special occasions when David has found ringers to mark these, as well as the weekly ringing, thank you.

I would like to thank everyone who in some way have given their time to the church, notably the flower arrangers, cleaners, mowers and cake makers.

Following the King's initiative 'The Big Help Out' we are making a list of things to attend to in and around the church; from changing light bulbs, sorting and polishing, to snipping and weeding in the churchyard. The date will shortly be announced. I invite you to 'Lend a hand and make a change'. Together we can keep our church a warm and welcoming place.

Julia Turner
May 2023