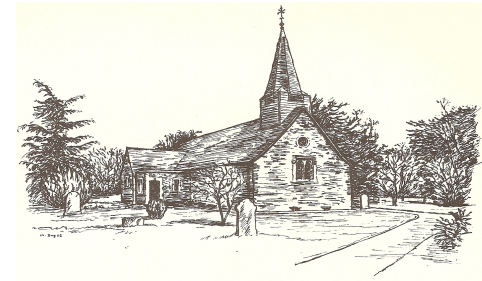


PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, WEXHAM

Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council



2022 – 2023

Rector

Revd Andrew Parry

Independent Examiner

Mr K Webb ACIS ACMA

E-mail Address: keithcwebb@aol.com

Bank

The Co-operative Bank

St Mary's Butts

Reading

Approved by PCC 14th March 2023

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WEXHAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

1. BACKGROUND:

Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of a Parish Church and is a charity. It is made up of members of clergy and lay members of the Church. Together, they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of the Church members and the Grade II* listed Church and the Church Hall adjacent to the Church. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the Church within the wider community.

The incumbent and the PCC are required to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish; the PCC is to co-operate with the minister in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

PCC members are responsible for managing the Church's finances and should ensure that all funds are properly accounted for, the books properly maintained and the PCC annual accounts inspected and formally approved by the PCC prior to the APCM.

The Rectory is situated at No. 7 Grangewood and is currently being let by the Diocese, as it is not required for a priest at St. Mary's.

Website: www.stmaryswexham.co.uk

2 MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

Incumbent:	Revd Andrew Parry
Curate:	Revd Tracey Jones (from January 2023)
Wardens:	Miss. V. Clayton and Mrs S. Edwards
Lay Chair:	Mr. P.A. Horth

Elected Members:

Appointed until

2024	Mrs C. Elderfield
2024	Mr C. Goldsmith
2025	Mrs L. Shelley
2025	Mrs P. Higgins

The following members term of office expires this year and they are thanked for their service

2023	Mrs B. Neame
2023	Miss G. Knight
2023	Mrs S.U. Edwards

This means we will have 4 vacancies for the PCC to be filled at the APCM as our Church Roll is between 51 and 100 members so there are 9 lay members on the PCC.

3 vacancies for 3 year terms of office and
1 vacancy for a 1 year term of office.

There are also 2 vacancies for Churchwarden

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs J Bell

Under the Church Representation Rules 2017 Rule 14.1. (e) The annual meeting has the power to appoint "such, if any, of the readers who are licensed to that parish or licensed to an area which includes that parish and whose names are on the roll of the parish as the annual meeting may determine;"

3. COMMITTEES:

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business between PCC meetings, subject to directions given by the Council.

4. ELECTORAL ROLL: Paul Horth

The Electoral Roll figure now stands at 54, down from 59 last year.

5. REVIEW OF THE YEAR:

a) Worship

Morning Sunday services have maintained their long-standing pattern:

8.00 am Holy Communion – Common Worship – Traditional Language (said)

10.00 am Holy Communion – Common Worship- Contemporary Language

Young Church meets in the Church Hall

Church for All – Second Sunday in each month

11.30 am Healing Service last Sunday in month (started in February 2023)

b) Permission to administer Communion was granted to:

Jane Boot, Vicky Clayton, Yvette Hickman, Diane Goldsmith, Patricia Higgins, Paul Horth, Jill Bell, John Higgins, Lynnette Shelley, Christine Elderfield, Hazel Beer

c) Finance Report from Mr B J Edwards, Treasurer.

There were no lockdowns in year 2022, and only one lockdown (no.3) for first 3 months of year 2021. On the Church's Finances. Direct Giving Scheme (DGS), our main source of Income, in 2022 saw an increase of only about 2%, (£348). The Not Gift Aid section of the Scheme, was down due to reduction of numbers, there is only 5 members left. Parish Giving Scheme was launched.

Church Collections were up 25% (£711) compared with the adjusted figure for year 2021 (£3,347 less one-off Service £570 =£2,777).

Fees from Services was 60% up on previous year, due to Revd Andrew officiating on many extra occasions, mainly funerals.

In Fund Raising nearly £2,000 was raised during the year. The highlight was again the Community Fair in October orchestrated by Yvette and her helpers, alongside some from the congregation. In 2021 the figure was higher due to sales of masks throughout the year.

Hiring out the Hall compared to 2021 was slightly up but only 20% capacity was being used.

Friends of St Mary's managed to raise over double of the previous year.

The Church was blessed with one Legacy but general donations were somewhat down on previous year. The Church did receive though, a Grant from ODBF (Diocese) for Wi-Fi in the Hall, (£976).

The Church is extremely grateful for all donors and givers as well as the Congregation who give via Bankers Credits, which enables the church to have a stable base to the Income each month.

General Expenditure was up by some £3,800. Parish Share remained level compared with previous year. In the future starting this year, Statutory Fees paid in 2021 will be offset with Parish Share 2023, and this system to continue every year onwards.

Hall Running Costs were up by £1,085 and this was due mainly to Utility Bills up £973.

Magazine & Printing was up by £800, mainly due to much more printing carried out in 2022 than previous year confirmed by higher quantity copy charges and purchase of Cartridges, along with paper White and Colour

Statutory Fees paid to ODBF (Diocese) much higher in relation to more Services as mentioned above in Income section amounting to £1,386.

Rev Andrew's expenses up by nearly £400 reflects the extra Funeral services officiated where monies come through Funeral Directors. Salaries represent Organists and Vergers at Church Services.

New Digital Air Phone and Mesh for WiFi, £398, which was covered by The Grant received.

In the Current Account figure there was an amount designated to Vicar's Vestry Repair of £700.

On page 2 were the details of the Church's Deposit Account. The General Reserve represents 3.8 months expenditure, in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines. Other items will be used for capital items when the expenses appear this year 2023.

I am now in my twelfth year as Treasurer and continue to enjoy the experience. I thank the church people for their co-operation.

d) Young Church Sandra Horth

collapse and is grateful for the support and commitment it receives from the congregation and the community.

On behalf of the PCC: _____

(Chaired by): _____

Date: _____

September Technology

November Safeguarding

Throughout the year there were a number of recurring items which were discussed including repairs to the clergy vestry roof, review of Covid arrangements to keep people safe, resolving issues with BT after Wi-Fi was installed in the Church Hall, Safeguarding is a standing item on all agendas and Revd Andrew arranged a Group Safeguarding Training Session in the Church Hall on 7th June.

The question of land ownership arose when a planning application was submitted by the owner of the Old Rectory which included church land. This was eventually refused on greenbelt and flood area grounds. It transpires that the church and churchyard are owned by the PCC but the remaining land comprising the Church Hall, Paddock and Stable block were transferred to the Diocesan Board of Finance in 1978 by virtue of the Endowments and Glebe Measure. We also clarified that the Diocese do insure their land and that we are entitled to use it for church related activities.

In July we reviewed the Jubilee Flower Festival and Cream Teas on 4th June 2022 which had brought in many members of the community. We heard that Revd Andrew had been successful in obtaining a Contactless Payment device from the Diocese and had begun soft marketing of the Church Hall as we had lost several hirers following the Covid lockdown.

In September we had a report on the Church Hall Security System and agreed to extend it to the Meeting Room door and planned the Harvest Lunch with cash donations going to SHOC and food donations to the Slough Foodbank. People were very generous. We planned for a PCC Thinking Day on 24th September 2022 when an augmented PCC considered a Mission Action Plan. We also discussed arrangements to open the church for anyone to come in and sign the book of condolence for HM Queen Elizabeth II.

For our November meeting we heard of the new arrangements for the Parish Share for 2023/4 and agreed to install an online heating system control so heating in the Church Hall was only on when needed. We approved the Safeguarding Policy and agreed to have a part time self-supporting curate who joined us at the end of January.

In January 2023 it was reported that the Church Hall running costs were now £5,000 per annum but we did have a new monthly hirer. Plans for the new Community Hub starting in February were discussed and an application to Buckinghamshire Community Awards Scheme for a grant to buy some new small fold up tables and storage trolley.

6. A FINAL THANKS

While it would be impossible to individually name all names, the PCC is indebted to the large number of people who voluntarily devote huge amounts of their time, skills and resources to the life and ministry of St Mary's. It recognises that without such input, the work of the Church would

It is good that Young Church has been back to meeting normally again. We have a good number of children and parents each week in the hall and when the weather is good, we are able to use the gated area. We have fun with stories, art and crafts, cookery, painting and games to learn about God and how he loves them. We have some time playing with the toys too.

We have a very young church at the moment, so play is important to them. On the second Sunday of the month, we have our Church for All services in the Church Hall which have been well attended by our families and this type of service is enjoyed.

This year we were able to have Mothering Sunday Communion service back in the Church Hall all together, with lovely posies to give out. On Palm Sunday we covered Holy Week through lots of activities and stories. The children and parents enjoyed this and learning what happened to Jesus leading up to Easter Day. On Easter day there was a service in Church all together, the children enjoyed going outside with Andrew to look for the empty tomb. After the service the children had an Easter egg hunt in the church grounds.

Young Church had a break in August but met with the Brownies for a Teddy bears picnic with a fun time in the gated area and the hall. In September Young Church started back with a back-to-school morning and the children took their backpacks into Church for Andrew to bless. This covered a wide age of children from toddlers to those starting secondary school. In October the Young Church families enjoyed the Harvest church for all followed by a Harvest lunch, something we have not been able to do for a few years. The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt in the church grounds too.

For All Souls, Young Church on that Sunday morning had a light party with lots of fun things to do while learning what All Souls was about. For Remembrance Sunday we invited the Brownies to join us in the hall to have a story and make poppy crafts. We then joined the congregation outside the Church for the 2 minutes silence. This was very well attended especially by non-church families. In December Christingle was celebrated in the Church for All service making up their own Christingles which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Church for All Crib Service on Christmas Eve was held back in Church, which was lovely to be able to do. The children who wanted to were able to dress up in nativity costume of their choice from the good selection we have. This was very well attended especially by a lot of non-church families and adults.

It is good that a long last Young Church were able to rejoin the congregation in church for a blessing and last part of the service. We continue to have Young Church in the hall three Sundays a month and Church for All once a month which gives us a chance for all ages to worship together.

I am thankful for the continued help and support of Becky and Hannah to be able to run Young Church. Andrew has supported the running of Young Church and joined us some Sundays, talking to the parents and joining the children in having fun.

Hopefully this year we can continue to outreach to our families in our community and have some new children and families join us.

e) Oak House Care Home Rev'd Chris Collinge, Lynnette Shelley and Vicky Clayton.

Hurray! We have been able to visit Oak House and take services. This has proved quite erratic with the residential home going into lock down occasionally and once we were unable to go. However, the times we have been there have been getting gradually more relaxed. The services

have been services of the word usually following a particular story from the Bible, with dramatic presentations provided by the talented Vicky and Lynnette and enthusiastically sung hymns. We were so looking forward to the time when we would be able to celebrate communion once more but it was a great surprise when they invited us to do so this very week. The service was very moving and the residents obviously treasured being able to take communion once more. We must make mention of the time after the service when we share non worship songs and poems. They particularly enjoyed Vicky and Lynnette's rendition of "The Owl and the Pussycat" and they love singing "How much is that doggy in the window?" with noises off. Our thanks must go to all the staff at Oak House who are always so welcoming and full of life - and to Elisa, Amy and Natalie our helpful links with the home. But most of all we thank the residents whose faith in a loving God is not dimmed, and with whom it is a privilege to share worship.

f) The Pines Extra Care Housing

Service of Morning Praise. last Wednesday each month. Vicky Clayton

Team:- Vicky Clayton, Jill Bell, David McIsaac, Lynnette Shelley and Revd Andrew Parry

The Morning Praise services have continued unbroken for this past year. The four of us each have a different role to play each month. We are self-sufficient and can cover when one of us is not available.

The congregation has not returned to former pre-Covid numbers but we have a regular, although small, band of worshippers. Two ladies occasionally attend services at St. Mary's church.

The Day Centre did not re-open post Covid which is a shame as we really enjoyed and appreciated their company

We took a service for Remembrance which was very well attended, (18 residents) and there were 9 worshippers at our Christmas service.

Revd Andrew visits most Fridays to mingle and chat.

The posters advertising times and dates of services are on the Pines notice boards and are updated regularly. The church newsletter is delivered regularly to three residents, as are the church monthly magazines.

Quite a lot of work is done by the 4 members of the Pines Ministry Team in putting the services together, a talk to be prepared, prayers written; music for the hymns to be downloaded onto the church music computer the previous Sunday, and folders containing the Orders of Service and hymn sheets to be collated.

Clementina has now left and changes in their office staff have resulted in rather minimal support. Hopefully, once this has settled down, we shall be able to resume our good working relationship with them.

Home Communion at the Pines Jill Bell

Once a month Vicky and Jill take Home Communion to The Pines. We have a short service in one of the communal rooms upstairs and then visit anyone not able to access that room. We may not get many attending but as Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." We are told that our services are very meaningful for those who attend. Sadly, many of the residents in the Pines have memory issues and forget, but each month we are there.

The group then asked if we could look at the chronology of the Bible so we could work out who came when e.g., did Moses come before Abraham, and we began at Creation and got as far as the Promised Land before we decided to take a break from the Old Testament and from our studies for a few weeks. When we resumed in October we began "Walking Backwards to Christmas" with Stephen Cotterell's book giving us a new perspective on the Christmas story.

After Christmas we began one of the Pilgrim Courses on the Eucharist and we concluded that with a Eucharist led by our curate TJ. Now as we are in Lent, we are looking at Gordon Giles book "At Home in Lent" when we examine everyday objects and how they reflect on our faith.

We've bonded as a group as we've discussed our very varied faith journeys and experiences. We have learned so much from each other. The variety of our viewpoints enriches our conversations and provides much food for thought. It's also made us grow in confidence in speaking of our faith. We've had some outings, to Burnham Abbey where we have joined the sisters for their Eucharist service and to Boveney Church for the patronal service for St Mary Magdalene one of the people we studied. We have led two Evening Services and will do another on the day of our APCM.

The group is keen to continue, not least because we have home-made cakes with Jeanette's tea and coffee and after Easter, we will be following another Pilgrim Course on The Creeds. If anyone would like to join us please speak to Jill on 0781274 1279.

r) Emmaus Road Fellowship Group - Exploring Belief

You probably all know the story in Luke's Gospel of the Emmaus Road encounter with Jesus. After the crucifixion of Jesus two disciples were talking, trying to make sense of recent events. They were joined by the risen Jesus who walked with them, listened to them, questioned them, taught them.

A small number of us have been meeting every second week on a Thursday evening for an hour. Like those disciples we try to make sense of life and of God's revelation to us.

As the website puts it, we meet to:

- Say Compline (but it's not a church service)
- Look at the Bible (but it's not a regular Bible study)
- Discuss deep questions of life (but it's not a philosophy group). We recently discussed research on Near Death Experiences.
- Share from our experience, and listen.
- Pray (but it's not a prayer meeting).

s) Main Topics of PCC Discussion

Since the last APCM the PCC has met 5 times and at the July 2022 meeting agreed to spread the workload throughout the year and ensure all regular major items were covered. This resulted in a high level agenda (for 2022, but revised for 2023) as follows:-

January	Mission
March	Finance, Fabric APCM preparation
May	Safeguarding

overhanging the hall roof will need to be professionally removed and other specialist tree-work will no doubt be required. It is for jobs such as these that we are especially grateful to have received a very generous donation for the upkeep of the churchyard.

Less specialised tree-work was carried out in-house and this will continue.

New helpers would be warmly welcomed by the current loyal volunteers, some of whom are beginning to feel their age - but who enjoy the work (and company) too much to give it up! Mowing; careful trimming and strimming around memorial stones; path sweeping and edging; emptying bins; routine tree-work; collecting fallen leaves and branches; gutter clearing; admiring the beautiful churchyard flora and fauna, etc., etc. are all done by the team – so there is plenty of variety for them and for new participants.

o) Men's Fellowship Paul Horth

The Men's fellowship bounced back last year after the lockdowns caused by innumerable variations of Covid.

We again started to meet on the last Thursday of the month either at the Church Hall for a takeaway or out at a local restaurant.

The conversations were wide ranging and convivial and all men who are interested in joining us should contact me, Paul Horth at paulhorth@virginmedia.com

p) Friends of St Mary's Report 2022 Lynnette Shelley

The Friends would like thank all those that support them regularly on a Monday evening, playing bingo. We continue to raise funds to support the maintenance of our beautiful Church building and also the hall.

Unfortunately we were unable to run a stall at the Church Fete. Sue Prentagast stepped up, on behalf of The Friends, and ran a knitwear stall. She was able to donate £75 to us and we are very grateful. Thank you Sue.

In January we ran a quiz night with a Ploughman's supper which raised £825.50. It was wonderful seeing so many people, filling our hall and all seemed to enjoy the evening, even if the questions were a bit tricky at times.

Thank you to Andrew for his continuing support of The Friends and their activities. Bingo is certainly something that he supports us with regularly.

Since taking on the lead for The Friends, Clare and I have raised over £35,000. We could not have done this without all those from the community giving us their support and we are very grateful to you all. Our Church and hall is a real community space and The Friends feel very privileged to be able to support it.

q) Bible Study Home Group Jill Bell

The group has had a busy year. Between 9 and 12 of us meet each week on a Tuesday morning. The group started on 22nd March 2022, meeting in the Church Hall then we moved to Jeannette's conservatory, then her garden (when weather permitted) and for the winter we are now in her cosy lounge. We are very grateful for her hospitality.

Our studies began with a look at Job followed by Esther when we enjoyed some beauty treatments to get us into the subject. Our next study was based on the book "Out of the Shadows" when we looked at some rather overlooked female characters in the Bible, like the midwives in the story of Moses. In each case we related their stories to situations now.

g) Safeguarding Report Heidi James

The Safeguarding Team continues to be made up of: Christine Elderfield (DBS and training records); Sandra Horth (Young Church Leader and Young People's Advocate); Heidi James (Parish Safeguarding Officer); and Andrew Parry (Rector).

The team meets formally approximately every 4 months and to have ad hoc meetings when specific circumstances require.

Training cover has improved as has our ability to track who needs to be trained (taken from the "Safeguarding Learning & development Framework 2021" issued by the House of Bishops of the Church of England on 3 April 2021 for review in 2024 and adopted by the PCC on 11 January 2022) and who has completed training. We had a good emphasis on training in 2022 and we need to repeat this in 2023. We are looking to arrange a face-to-face training session for the Deanery.

The Safeguarding Dashboard remains useful because it provides structure and a more complete view. But it is hungry in that it demands feeding at the drop of a hat. A healthy-looking dashboard can suddenly go red because, for example, a document has not been presented to the PCC when the dashboard feels that it should. So, useful as it is, we want to avoid the temptation to adopt the practice of passing reports to the PCC for them to nod through.

The safeguarding team and members of the congregation are actively engaged in supporting and being advocates for, particular vulnerable children and adults. All concerns we have are being addressed and monitored. There are no matters of which we are aware, that need to be drawn to the attention of the PCC.

h) Report on the Church Fabric of St Mary's Church, Wexham Susan Edwards, Vicky Clayton Churchwardens.

During 2022, continuous routine maintenance work of cleaning, minor repairs, maintenance of Organ and Fire extinguishers took place. Regular work in mowing and maintaining the churchyard was also on-going.

The main concern has been that of the Priest's Vestry roof, which has deteriorated considerably and is leaking. Despite our best efforts we were unable to satisfy the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee team regarding the specification of materials required. In May 2022, we sought assistance from our Architect, Mr Neil Barr. He drew up plans and devised a specification of work for the roof and walls for tender to prospective Contractors. Despite circulating Contractors known both to Mr Barr and ourselves, only one estimate of over £15,000 was received in November 2022.

Our original quotation for repair of the roof and ceiling in 2020 was £2,376, but since then the condition of the vestry roof, ceiling, walls and floor has deteriorated considerably.

In September 2022, our Architect, Mr Neil Barr, carried out his quinquennial (5-year) Inspection of the building and churchyard. Overall, he was impressed with the care shown by so many to our Grade II* church.

The Architect's full report showed that over the next five years, attention needs to be paid to the exterior wall corner blocks on the south-west and upper blocks on the east walls. Inside the church we need to monitor the ceiling and walls for any deterioration.

The main priority for 2023 must be to ensure that repairs are done as soon as possible to ensure that the Priest's Vestry is completely watertight and a safe environment for everyone entering and working in the area.

Despite these concerns we must remember that St Mary's is an ancient church, and grateful thanks go to all those whose tireless work keeps the building and churchyard in the best possible condition.

i) Bats Vicky Clayton

The Bat survey duly took place in June 2022, and in January 2023 we were advised that DNA had identified the presence of *Plecotus auritus* (a brown long-eared bat). Our bat has remained elusive and has been neither seen nor heard, and there is nothing for us to do.

j) Church Hall Susan Edwards

Regular maintenance continues in the church hall, with weekly cleaning of all areas. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are installed in the kitchen area and annual checks are made on the gas boiler as well as all fire appliances.

The foundations of the hall were laid in 1963 and the building is inevitably showing its age, so a great deal of remedial work is needed with continuing costs. The hall is a beautiful building, but is also very cold during the winter, as heat rises rapidly to the high ceilings. The windows too are not double glazed and cause extra heat loss. Problems have been experienced in repairs to the electrics, and we may soon be faced with the expensive prospect of complete re-wiring.

Internet Wi-Fi access is now fully operational following some difficult challenges with connections and changes to telephone access through a 'DigiAir' system.

These changes mean that the hall can be made available to more groups needing Wi-Fi access as well as offering new opportunities for St Mary's activities and services.

Hall bookings have recovered slightly following the Covid pandemic, but some groups which used the hall have closed completely.

Thanks must go to all those using the premises, who respect the building by leaving it clean and tidy after use, and make life so much easier for the cleaning team – Beryl, David, Brian and Sue.

k) Fund raising Yvette Hickman

A Community Autumn Fair was held in October and despite the weather and less people (and dogs) attending, this was a successful event raising just over £1400.

Our thanks go to everyone who donated goods and prizes; without these donations, the event would not have been the success that it was.

More particularly, our thanks go to those who donated their time, especially the increasing number of friends and family that the organisers are now having to rely upon to achieve the amount of fund raising.

There are no plans to organise a fair in the near future.

We also had a stall at the George Green Christmas light switch and this was a successful event.

l) SHOC Yvette Hickman

In December we made 43 gifts for the homeless of Slough; as well as a bag full of extra goods and some 2nd hand clothes. Many thanks go to everyone that donated goods, money and time to package the parcels.

When we delivered the Christmas gifts we had a conversation with the organisers and they advised, that sadly, they do not receive as many donations as they used to. As a result, a campaign to collect left over goodies from Christmas that were no longer required in our homes (or our tummies!!) was launched. As a result, St Mary's was able to deliver several bags full of treats to SHOC.

SHOC is one of the charities that we give money to from our Harvest collection, and it is included in our tithed giving.

Later this year we will be having a chat with the organisers prior to our collection of items to make sure that we are asking for the right things. It came to light during our discussion, that although we ask for soap, the homeless people don't have anywhere to keep it....

m) Magazine Report – Chris Collinge

Thanks must go to Jill Bell who works tirelessly producing the magazine each month. It is surprising how quickly deadlines keep appearing and new ideas have to be created. Thank you also to Gordon for the printing and collating, Paul sorting out the website production and Christine for attending to the advertisers' invoices and Sue who organises the distribution and is the fountain of knowledge on matters Magazine.

Thanks also to those who write the monthly articles which are not only enjoyed as regulars by the community but provide a valuable and reliable source of material as deadlines approach! I am still no better at the quizzes, David!

The magazine is greatly appreciated by the community and plays a part in bringing a sense of belonging. We have customers at both The Pines and Oak House as well as the magazine being distributed by some local shops and cafes and a stalwart team delivers to local houses. We currently print 100 copies. It helps foster the sense of community and belonging that we so much value at St Mary's as well as helping us keep abreast of events. Once more thank you to all the people who send us articles for the magazine – regular features and one-off items. We do continue to reserve the right to edit and shorten submitted items. If you would like to contribute material, then please let Jill know.

n) Churchyard Care Team Colin Goldsmith, Judith Allen

Despite sometimes coinciding with heatwaves or downpours, Churchyard Care sessions continued to take place during the year! For those less keen on gardening there was the opportunity of joining in by clearing church and hall gutters, removing leaves from drains, etc. – all much more fun than it sounds and with delicious refreshments half-way through! In between these Saturday gatherings individual volunteers helped to maintain and tidy the grounds. The keeping of

Diocesan regulations was encouraged and, in order to protect the tranquil nature of the churchyard, memorials of loved-ones will continue to be gently monitored.

The health of churchyard trees was kept under observation. It was not necessary for professional tree surgeons to carry out work during the year in question but, in the near future, branches