

## All Saints Church, Freethorpe 2020 Church Wardens Report.

What a strange time we are in. Church is locked, no services taking place, no comings and goings. You might think that the church community have all gone and the church is no more. Well I can assure you this is not the case. Behind this lockdown and very restricted times, our church family community has been working very hard in many ways. Regular contact through telephone and internet is being made to all friends, making sure all is well and if there is anything that can be done to help them. Our church community is even stronger as we strive to look after each other in these very difficult times.

Before all this started, life was still carrying on as normal, looking forward to Lorna's replacement. We at All Saints Church were holding regular services every Sunday with an average congregation of about 14 each time. The AWAs have been very busy taking services three Sundays a month, and Martin taking Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Two services were cancelled due to the very strong winds and with only one exit and with the two large trees by the door, we felt that it was a health and safety issue for our congregation.

During this shut down, open the book has been on hold and our team of OTBs are on standby waiting for things to return to normal fortnightly productions. As there isn't a Sunday school in operation anymore, this is the only way we can keep in contact with the children and to portray the Christian message.

At the beginning of a service on a Sunday morning, Jean Thompson, who is a very keen ancestral explorer, has been reading out her findings on a particular grave each time, and all that is associated with it. It's like a serial. Each week we are eagerly waiting for the next instalment. Well done Jean. We look forward to the next instalment. All Jean's findings are in a folder (or two) for all visitors young or old to browse through.

Last January, we lost one of our most treasured and loved member of our PCC. After a very long illness, Nicky Edelsten passed away. Nicky and her husband Tony helped in many ways offering their house and garden to use for PCC meetings and our annual fetes. Up to the last meeting, Nicky was able to take part in the meetings and enjoyed see all the people attending the fetes. She will be very sadly missed by us all.

A Coffee/Tea and chat was held every last Friday of the month last summer and autumn and was due to start again this spring time but like so many other events this has been put on hold.

During this period of uncertainty, the churchyard grass keeps growing along with all the weeds. If it wasn't for our dear friend John Cullingford, it would look like an unkept meadow. It is a picture and all thanks to him we have a very lovely and tidy setting.

When Lorna Allies officiated at baptisms, she used her own shell. Thanks to Margaret and her husband Graham, a Silver scallop was purchased and donated for such a purpose.

A holder to stand our large Easter Candle all year round was sorely needed. Jean and her son Andrew put their heads together and came up with a wonderfully designed holder created out of metal. This depicted the 'Trinity' by rings. It is absolutely magnificent.

During the period our church has been closed and no services taking place, funds for the essential items such as insurance were not forthcoming. On making an appeal with the church members, a donation from each parishioner is being made and therefore such bills are being paid.

As we are in this shut down period, we must keep contact with the village people. Normally, this would have been possible with a planned quiz, concert and other activities so talk to people via the recommended outlets letting them know we are still here and care for everybody.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful work that you, the PCC and all the others do in keeping the church running and vibrant. Thank you all for your support as we continue this period of uncertainty. Our prayers and support are with you all.

Graham Allcock

( Church Warden)