

## St John's Milford Newsletter

Through the hard work of Revd Clive Potter and Revd Peter Hewson, not to mention the expertise of Alison Turner, St John's has continued to provide services via Zoom or in person during 2020 giving much needed support and fellowship to the wider congregation. At a time when all of us have had to learn new skills lots of people have stepped up to the mark and have contributed in many ways to the Sunday Service, Wednesday communion or Zoom Coffee and Chat. It has been different but fun but now none of us can wait for it all to get back to normal – whatever that may be.

As well as progress on the spiritual side other things have been happening with the fabric of the church and we are most grateful that Bill Braid is continuing to oversee these projects even though he has completed his term of office as Churchwarden.

These notes are from him:

'I am still running with a number of projects as leftovers from my term as Churchwarden and this is an update on the current progress that I acknowledge has been slow in many instances.

A couple have come together at much the same time, it's always the way isn't it! The replacement of the church centre doors has at last got the necessary consents with planning approval following Diocesan agreement. That leaves us ready to go when the contractors are able to do so although that might be influenced by Covid. The current thoughts are around the end of January but don't hold your breath.

The church lights have been replaced following advice from CES who specialise in church lighting. We set out to create a much brighter church with attractive shades at a relatively low cost. Those of you who have been inside the church will, I am sure, bear testament to the enormous change that the lighting has made to the interior of our church.



As you walk down the pathway from Jubilee Field towards the Church you will see that the railings have been replaced. Witley Parish Council, who have responsibility for the churchyard, have undertaken this work that has enhanced the whole area as well as providing a gate from the lane into the Garden of Remembrance. Much appreciated, thank you Witley Parish Council.



This beautiful bird bath has been placed in the Garden of Remembrance in memory of Dorothy Tarry who sadly died earlier in the year. We thank David and his family for thinking of this welcome addition and we are sure the birds will enjoy splashing in it as well.



We intend to replace the church boiler in order to resolve the gas pressure problem that otherwise could have made it necessary to install new piping across the Garden of Remembrance....that was not an alternative that we wished to carry out. We have to get Diocesan approval for the new boiler.

We are looking for grants to help finance these works and are very grateful to Witley Parish Council for approving a grant of £750 towards the new doors for the Church Centre. This support sets us on our way. Any donations or suggestions would, of course, be very welcome.'

As well as the Christmas Services taking place mainly on Zoom Clive and Peter led us in thoughtful worship on Remembrance Sunday and the church was decorated with crocheted poppies to remember the fallen from the village from both world wars.



We hope you enjoy reading about what has been going on at St. John's and we look forward to telling you more in due course.

It seems appropriate to end with a message from Clive:

Dear Friends.

Where would we be without friends and indeed family and of course our church family.

You will notice we are trying to keep things going in very challenging times.

Your support of prayer, interest and financial contributions all echo the strong Church family we have, and the love shared amongst us all.

May I wish you a blessed and happy New year.

Blessings. Clive Potter