

No 10

Scarning PCC Report to Scarning Annual Parish Meeting

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to start this report with a thank you to the Parish Council for continuing to provide the grass cutting in the churchyard and for looking after the clock. Once again, the tree funded by the Parish Council and the decorations on the Village Hall made the centre of the village look special over Christmas 2016.

After the major works in 2015, 2016 was relatively quiet in terms of works at the church. It is very pleasing to report that the new drainage system is working well, resulting in a much drier atmosphere in the building.

The team of bell ringers goes from strength to strength. They have been carrying out maintenance work in the tower, including the re-painting of the bell frame. The PCC has funded more substantial work to the floors and ladders in the tower and to the electrical kit.

We have installed a new PA system in church. This has now settled down well after some initial teething troubles.

The church architect will be carrying out his five yearly inspection of the church on 9 May. The resulting Quinquennial Inspection Report will set out the works needed on the building and their relative urgency. For the first time, we will be enlisting the help of a drone to take high level, close up photographs of the condition of the building to help with the architect's assessment.

We are anticipating that the tower will need some repair work. However, the recent announcement of the proposal to end the scheme under which grants are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund for listed places of worship is a major concern in terms of funding for major projects and improvements to churches.

Once again, we have been pleased to welcome children from Scarning School to services at the church. We are also pleased to confirm that there are regular visits to the residents of Oak Manor.

In terms of clergy, the Team Vicar Adrian Aubrey-Jones retired in 2016 and we have so far been unsuccessful in recruiting a replacement. It seems that, as with doctors and teachers, it is difficult to attract clergymen to Norfolk.

The PCC was pleased to be able to pay its parish share to the Diocese in full in 2016.

The Flower Festival in May 2016 was a great success with some delightful arrangements around the theme "Dance with Me". The coffee mornings on the second Saturday of each month continue to draw people from the village and beyond with the promise of a bacon butty and a chat. Other fund raising events have included suppers, a concert, a pop up shop of ladies' fashions, sales of Frank Foreman's books and CDs and the newspaper collection run by Charles Hewson. The PCC would like to thank everyone involved for their support.

We are planning a Strawberry Tea on 2 July to which everyone is invited.

Sue Rockley
PCC Secretary
24 April 2017