

April 2014

## **PARISH OF RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN**

### **Churchwardens' Report 2013/14**

The weather this year has not caused too many problems so far – we are all thoroughly sick of wind and rain, but apart from a few leaks it has not caused any disruption to our services and activities in the church or the hall. Maintaining the roof of a building like the church is always on-going and our builder has done some repairs and has hopefully finished whatever is necessary for the moment. We are also grateful to Robert McLintock and Margaret Curtis for all their hard work in re-decorating the porch – it looks so much better and makes it much more welcoming.

With regard to the maintenance of the churchyard, the main matters of note have been the installation of the lights in the car-park and on the path leading to it and also the re-surfacing of the area outside the Vestry door. The installation of the lights was made possible by grants from the District/Parish Councils, and the resurfacing was also largely covered by the District Council, meaning that we had to fund a relatively small amount. We are very grateful to Diane Williams for all her hard work in keeping up the pressure on all concerned to get the work done – we hope you agree that both matters are a big improvement both visually and from the safety angle.

With regard to the Hall, the weather may not have caused any disruption but the metal thieves certainly did! We are sure that you will all know what happened and that for probably something less than the proverbial 30 pieces of silver they caused a lot of damage and inconvenience to the hall and its users. As a result of the hard work of everyone who turned out to help clear up the mess, in particular to our plumbers who attended very promptly not only to turn off the water in the first place but then to repair all the damage, and also to Margaret Nicholas who watched over and managed everything, the hall was back in business and fully operational again in very short order – thank you everybody.

Janet Sharp has been Organist, choir director and conductor of the music group at St Mary's for some 20 years. She is delighted that Edwin Davies has now taken over as Organist and choir director and she is looking forward to singing in the choir, playing occasionally, but continuing to conduct the music group. We are most grateful to Janet for all her hard work over the years. We now look to the future and welcome Edwin and wish him well with continuing the musical tradition at St Mary's. We thank the choir and the music group for all their hard work – don't be shy; new members are always welcome in both!

We are grateful to Diane Williams and to Bennet Smith, our Assistant Wardens, for so ably assisting us and taking on so many jobs too numerous to mention. In particular, building on her previous experience as churchwarden, Diane very kindly agreed to chair a new Church Fabric Sub-Committee and continue to oversee these matters for us, ably assisted by Robert McLintock.

For a long time those who regularly cleaned the church have gone largely unnoticed by the general congregation and the faithful few had dwindled to make the weekly clean-up unsustainable. We have now instituted a general clean-up on usually the first Saturday of every month to try to manage everything in the church, the churchyard and the hall as required. We would be glad of help from as many of you as possible, so please watch the mini-mag for details - we don't expect everyone every month but turning up from time to time would be great!

We will just mention the Hermitage Concert and the Christmas Tree Festival – both were very successful and will be referred to in more detail elsewhere. We tender our grateful thanks to all involved.

As we write there is another “work-in-progress” – the shelves on the windowsills are all being replaced and by the time you read this they may already be in situ. Our thanks to Christine Smith for arranging the work and also to all those individuals and organisations who have sponsored windows.

The responsibilities and duties of the Churchwardens are always made much easier when there is a strong team at work in the congregation, and, as usual, we have been very fortunate in this respect. We are most grateful to the Reverend Peter Flynn for continuing to stand in and take services when the Vicar is away. Our grateful thanks go to Margaret Nicholas for all her hard work and dedication in so many areas of church life; and also to the editors of The Landmark, including Margaret Nicholas (again!); Doris Gosnold, in her role of Christian Listener, continues to be an invaluable member of the ministry team and also helping with our Tots and Toddlers sessions. Unfortunately since we started to compile this report, as we are sure you will know, Doris has broken her hip. We send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our thanks also go to Audrey Bernardi and Martyn Berry for their continued help and support in ministerial duties. Also thanks to all the Servers for their dedication (more volunteers always needed to make the tasks of the faithful few a bit easier!), and those who undertake Sacristan duties - more help is, as usual, needed in this area. Thank you to all those who prepare intercessions, read lessons, administer the chalice, perform as sidespersons and generally contribute to the worship at St. Mary's. Thanks go to Rosemary McLintock for the duties she undertakes in her role as Parish Disclosure Officer and to Zoe Bromwich as Parish Childrens Representative. Similarly our thanks go to those who help to maintain the churchyard and Garden of Remembrance, especially Robin Tonge and Margaret Curtis. We can always accommodate more volunteers! Our thanks to Robin Tonge for his publication of the minimag with all its complexities. Sadly as most of you will know Robin recently suffered a stroke; we wish him well and hope to see him back with us soon. Grateful thanks again go to Robert McLintock for all the invaluable assistance he gives us in connection with all things electrical, and for his unstinting help in general maintenance and the administration of the website; we thank him most sincerely for all the time and energy he devotes to these matters. He is also working on improving the loudspeaker system – and two new speakers are in trial positions. Thanks also to Geoff Holland for making sure the clock keeps ticking! The Sunday School team led by David Holmes has continued its success, but David is now standing down and we thank him for all his hard work. Thanks also to the Tots and Toddlers team, to Ann Straight for her hard work with the Traidcraft Stall, to the Events Team led by Margaret Curtis and to all the Lunch Club cooks and helpers (we desperately need more volunteers here), as well as the after-service coffee makers and to the flower arrangers who decorate our church so beautifully. Thanks to the PCC and in particular to Ronnie Todd the Secretary and Stuart Wigley our Treasurer.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to Martin for everything he does as our Vicar and to Maggie for not only faithfully supporting him but also being an excellent hostess and helping out with Lunch Club and Tots and Toddlers. We hope we haven't forgotten anyone in this long list, (if we have our apologies) – but we are truly grateful to YOU ALL.

Barry Sharp/John Curtis