

March/April 2015

PARISH OF RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

Churchwardens' Report 2014/15

The weather this year has been kind to us. There have been a few leaks but they have not caused any disruption to our services and activities in the church or the hall. As we said last year, maintaining the roof of a building like the church is always on-going and we have applied for assistance from the Government grant recently announced – apparently already oversubscribed but amount available tripled in the recent budget. We are hoping that as well as having a general overhaul of the roof we may get assistance with installing some form of walkway to improve access – result of application still awaited; watch this space. We are very grateful to Diane Williams and Robert McLintock for all their hard work in preparing the application in a very short window of opportunity.

With regard to the Hall, the floor covering in the office has been replaced by the insurers following last year's burglary. The kitchen is beginning to look a bit "tired" and there are plans afoot for a refurbishment – but this may get put back a bit depending on what happens with the Organ – see below. It transpired on the day of a funeral (as well as Tots & Toddlers) that there was a problem with the drain and it blocked. Fortunately this has been fixed and much of the cost has been met by our insurers. Many thanks to Margaret Nicholas for all her hard work in managing the hall and its users.

We are sure that you will know that Edwin Davies has sadly decided to resign as organist and choir director and played his last Sunday service for us on Mothering Sunday. In his short time with us the choir has enjoyed his enthusiasm and we trust you all have too. This means of course that we have to find a replacement or replacements. As we write this is very much "work in progress" but the position may be clearer by the time of the APCM.

Apart from losing our organist we have also lost our Organ! It suffered an electrical fire and quite serious internal damage. Investigations are ongoing as to whether it can be repaired or whether a complete replacement will be required – and if the latter, what make. It sounds as though it may have been caused by wear and tear and therefore not covered by insurance and so could be very expensive. As we write this also is very much "work in progress" and we may have more information to give by the time of the APCM.

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 has also chaired the Church Fabric Sub-Committee and continues to oversee these matters for us, ably assisted by Robert McLintock.

The 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 seems to be working well. We are grateful to everyone who turns up, and more hands would always be welcome. 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 have had two concerts and also the Christmas Tree Festival – all were very successful and we tender our grateful thanks to all involved.

We received a bequest stipulating that it should be used for the upkeep of the Garden of Remembrance, so the PCC decided that some of it should be used to improve the condition of the grass. Consequently we engaged the services of a lawn maintenance firm on an

ongoing basis, and we are also grateful to Martin Wilson who generously gave his services free of charge and has already made a start on reducing the overhanging trees in the Garden and compost area.

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. Our thanks also go to Audrey Bernardi and Martyn Berry for their continued help and support in ministerial duties, although we see much less of Audrey now that she is living further away. 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. We can always accommodate more volunteers! 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. Thanks also to Geoff Holland for making sure the clock keeps ticking! The Sunday School team are ably running things. Thanks also to the Tots and Toddlers team, to Ann Straight and Benet Smith for their 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.

As we said last year - 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

Barry stands down this year as Churchwarden after five years' noble work, and I should like to pay tribute to him (and to Janet for her forbearance) for his dedicated service while continuing to work and also to sing in the choir at the same time. The search for his successor has been long and difficult, and has only come to an end when Diane Williams eventually agreed to return for one year only. I am extremely grateful to her (and to Denis) for agreeing to help us out. This means that next year we shall have the same problem UNLESS someone steps forward in the meantime. It should be possible to realign the duties so that they are not really very onerous, so I should like to ask all of you to consider carefully whether you would be able to help out. It is quite possible to combine working with being churchwarden, as Barry has shown. So please do think about this and talk to me or Martin if you want to know more. Thank you.

John Curtis