

## Churchwardens' Report

2019 started off with the keen anticipation of the appointment of a new Team Vicar. A process which seemed to take a very long time!

This was followed in March by the usual archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry. We were asked to list our "Joys and Concerns". We all felt we had a lot to be thankful for including an emotional All Souls service, a remarkably well attended Remembrance service, a super Christmas and a very successful Open the Book team. We were also able to report again that our Safeguarding and Data protection policies were in place, along with the necessary DBS checks having taken place.

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners we were lucky to have Liz McNamara appointed as Churchwarden. Hilary Corlett was thanked for all she had given to the church over the years.

Easter was a most enjoyable time with a chick hunt and a series of meaningful services led by Rev'd Sue Astbury. Also, an inspirational Lent course, featuring the Messiah as a focus, taken by Dr Ruth Sewell.

June finally saw the Licensing of our New Team Vicar, Rev'd Jane Frost and the licensing of Richard Frost as Reader to the Haldon Team. The church was packed, with standing room only, for a wonderful service led by Bishop Jackie.

Also, on the 5<sup>th</sup> June we were visited by members of the Devon Historic Graffiti team. They went up into the tower and found all sorts of marks left by people when the tower was built - including marks to keep witches away!!

The churchwardens would like to express their gratitude to the Social and Fundraising team for a delicious Strawberry Tea, a very enjoyable Ukulele Concert, a Harvest Mouse Hunt and a Christmas Tea. All of which provided valuable funds for the church.

We would also like to thank Rev'd Roderick Withnell and the Haldon Team for looking after us and keeping our services covered. It required a lot of extra organisation on their part. Our best wishes to Roderick now he is a gentleman of leisure!

Advent saw the most successful Angel Festival with lovely banners adorning the church and activities for children to come to. Thanks to Rev'd Jane and her team.

The churchwardens also owe a debt of gratitude to all those other groups of people who keep the church alive –the PCC who give up their time to ensure the church is running well - the Sacristy ladies who make sure that everything is ready for Communion, not only on Sundays but on Wednesdays as well and with the additional burden required during the vacancy - the Coffee Cup team who raise money to buy flowers and plants for Fran and Valerie to visit those who are unwell in the village – the sidespeople for welcoming the congregation as they arrive – the flower girls, the tea and coffee team and the gifted Open the Book team who take the Bible into the village school and especially Nick Gardiner and the choir who keep us singing every week.

All church maintenance issues are reported in the Church Maintenance Committee report. The hard work put in by Sir Andrew Ridgway and the CMC team is greatly appreciated. Especially as the Roof Project is beginning to take off.

Inventory and Terrier Report: In addition to the NADFAS document detailing all the contents of the church we now have a complete electronic inventory which makes the check on the church goods much easier. We are not aware of losing anything this year!!

At the end of 2019 no-one would have believed that we were about to be taken over by a Covid-19 pandemic. The whole style of church changed with being locked down in March and all services having to be produced online. Rev'd Jane, along with Richard's computer expertise, kept wonderful services going online with the Haldon Team ministry playing their part taking services as well. A network of telephone callers kept the parishioner links going within their parish. Thanks to all who have kept our church life alive.

*Keith Hutchings and Liz McNamara*

*Churchwardens*