

## **St Mary's Theydon Bois Churchwardens Report 2018 APCM**

### **Fabric**

We had a Quinquennial Inspection carried out in 2017 to ensure the Church Buildings are in a good state of repair. This inspection is undertaken every five years by an architect or chartered building surveyor approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Thankfully the inspection and report did not uncover any items of major concern. The items that were reported are on a "Things to do" list and will be done over the coming months.

Our heating engineer retired during the year. We are about to appoint a DAC approved heating firm to take on this role. We will review the status of the boiler with our new engineers.

### **Pastoral**

We had a visit from the Rural Dean to check the Church inventory. No issues to report.

There has been some change over the past year. Your Church Wardens would like to make it public record of our thanks on behalf of the Church to;

John Eaton, who retired as Churchwarden during the year and has given us valuable advice and support from his wealth of experience in the role. John has executed an awful lot of work to make the transition as seamless as possible. We thank John for all his time, effort, and contributions over the years which included two stints as Church Warden. We thank John as Wardens and on behalf of the Church family.

Fiona Bradley former Junior Church Leader, whose years of dedicated service to our Church will not be covered adequately with simple words. We thank Fiona, not just with our words, but with heartfelt thanks on behalf of our Church family.

Others to thank who are still in active service are Sarah Bowen Benefice Administrator who is in the midst of the mammoth GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations. Sarah's work will ensure we as a Church are compliant with the latest set of regulations surrounding the protection of data.

Marion Smith who is the Parish Safeguarding Representative has completed the necessary prerequisites that enable her to train Safeguarding Representatives. We as a Church need to ensure everyone is safe.

Sally Crone has reviewed and updated St Mary's electoral roll. The output of this exercise fed neatly into our recent stewardship project.

Jill Ford (Stewart) Historic Burials is working through Church burial records and collating all the information on computer. This will help us as a Church to answer burial enquiries more efficiently.

With huge thanks for the generosity of two St Mary's Parishioners we have gained a new Wedding Cope, kindly donated by Vicky Rowland and also have a new White Stole and new Green Burse and Veil, kindly donated by Dani Atkinson. The beauty of our services will only be enriched by these additions.

We are especially blessed in the Benefice to have our Vicar Reverend John Fry, ably supported by a clergy support team of; Reverend Simon Elman, Reverend Richard Fisher, Beryl Denney, Martin Lockwood, Tony Dawson and the All Age Worship Group serving us here at St Mary's. We thank them all for their dedication and commitment.

Along with every service, we have discovered over time what amounts to a small army of people ably assisting with the smooth running of each Church service. So a big "thank you" to our

Sides People who welcome our Church family each week.

Our Choir; who guide our choral worship.

Our team of Readers who read from scripture helping to deliver God's holy word.

Our Intercessors who create prayers for us all each week.

Our Eucharistic Assistants who assist with the chalice at our Communion Worship.

Our Sacristan Liz Hannibal without whom our Communion worships would be missing too many items to list in this report.

The Refreshments teams who provide teas and coffees, along with drinks for the children after our 10.30 services.

Last but not least, the team of florists who beautify the Church with some astonishing floral arrangements.

So what is Church? Often it is seen as the building we are currently within. But Church is the coming together of God's people and it is on that note that we as Church Wardens would like to thank you all for your contributions throughout the year no matter how great or small, every contribution makes a difference. The baby who cries in the middle of a service may well cause the Parents some concern, but that contribution shows the future of our Church is alive. With that thought in mind we pray that God will bless each and every member of his family.

Once again "Thank you" to each and every one of you.

**St Mary's Churchwardens**

**Mrs Mary Gill**

**Mr Michael Palmer**