**APCM, April 2022**

**Churchwardens’ Annual Report for 2021**

**2021** proved to be a year of both progress and challenge and we were kept very busy even though the Church was still enduring the effects of the Pandemic.

**Alleged fraud** – As Churchwardens, it was incumbent on us to report to the DAC and other agencies. Whilst most of the financial loss has been recovered via an insurance claim, we await a further update from the Police this month and the DAC, Charity Commission, Ecclesiastical Insurance and of course Parishioners will be updated in due course.

**Ecclesiastical Insurance Claims**

A claim for the vehicle damage to the Churchyard wall will be made on receipt of the third and final quote, due imminently.

**‘Living in Love and Faith’**

Noel, Richard and Jane have completed the five-session course which was hosted and led by Mother Cate at All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard a summary in due course. A summary will be shared in due course.

**Fundraising for the Church and Church Hal**l – we await news of our appeal to Silica Sands in their annual charitable donation review, held in April each year. We will follow up accordingly if there is no response.

**Quotes for repair of Church Hall drive and car parking area** – The surface is being further deteriorated by the mechanical digger (for the graves) and the grass is getting churned up.  Whilst we understand the need for a digger, we have formally requested funding from the Parish Council to compensate the church. Obviously it our wish to have the whole driveway and carpark resurfaced. Three quotes were obtained and these were forward to Silica sands as part of our bid process. NB: These quotes will have expired by now.

**Permanent Broadcasting Platform/Streaming Service** With thanks to Parishioners and a successful fundraising campaign, broadband was successfully installed at the Church and the Hall in December 2021, however we still await completion of the work with BT OpenReach.

**Installation of new heating system in the Hall** – in December 2021

**Appointments** – Churchwardens were involved in the recruitment of the new Church Hall Manager and Parish Administrator (Vicki Worden) and Hall Cleaner (Lesley Simpson).

**Administration** - Churchwardens continue to attend weekly meetings with Fr Noel, Standing Committee meetings, as well as monthly PCC meetings. We have also contributed to a revised PCC Mission Action Plan**.** Churchwardens act as Vergers at all funerals. We help at all Holiday Clubs and other fundraising events throughout the year. We also liaise with CBC regarding land adjacent to the church, tree disease and bins.

**Quinquennial submission**- formally requested a delay in 2021 until 2022.

**Church toilet** – a grab rail was installed and plans afoot for total redecoration of both toilet and kitchen areas which are long-overdue.

**Organ** – The organ has been serviced and is in good order. Funds raised by the successful concert held in 2019 went to pay for a new flute stop which has improved the sound.

**Jean & David Lowrence panel**

Jane has been liaising with the family following David Lowrence’s recent demise and the urgent desire to fulfil the order for the engraved glass, due mid-May 2022.

**CHURCH, HALL, GARDEN AND OUTBUILDINGS**

**Revision of Terms and Conditions of Hire document – in preparation**

**Repair of damaged Church Cemetery Wall – in hand**

As recommended by Matthew Stevens, architect and surveyor, Peter Dunn, **Weldon Stone**, will attend a and provide a quotation imminently/this month. This will provide the third and final quotations for review by Matthew Stevens for ‘like for like’ work, and form the requisite three quotes for the DAC.

**Queen’s Canopy** – we were awarded 12 saplings, one of which will be shared with St Leonard’s School.

**++ APPEAL/Request for Helpers – please feel encouraged to share your talents/gifts with our lovely Church and grounds. We will welcome them as our resources are limited.**

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In line with our commitment to be both an Eco Church and Eco garden, we are increasingly aware of the need to check and utilise organisations and services which align themselves to this commitment and are local either in the form of a business or by parishioner/s. We are proud to list notable achievements to date:

* Replacement *Suggestion Box* created from an upcycled, repaired Indian wooden box (donated by Jane and repaired by Richard)
* More bird-feeders from local villager, Michele Redwood Green, who happily upcycled them for us.
* In September 2021, hosted overnight Cop26 Caministas on their walk for the planet from Bristol to Glasgow for COP26 meetings
* Our support of local contractor, Steve McGiff, CEF, in providing the energy-efficient heating in the Hall (per above) underscores that.
* All power settings are set on an ‘Eco’ setting to minimise over-use
* Heat and light and materials (including candles, oils and paper) are used reasonably
* The awarded. free saplings (mentioned above) will add to our investment in our green spaces.
* The donation of a pair of large ‘pre-loved’ bird feeders, with bird feed, is another example.
* Added to this the left-over oranges from the Christingle, when mixed with vinegar, created a very effective fresh-scented cleaner.
* The Christingle candles were removed and stored for next year.
* Recycled bowls (from reused clay) and signage from donated lead, wood and decorations, in the garden
* Local artist/teacher donating her time to create DAC-approved image on side of shed
* Local supporter, Lesley Simpson, created a substantial bug house(‘Bugingham Palace’) made out of natural, upcycled products
* All coffee grounds and tea-bags are composted
* All used candles will be melted down and sent to a local recycling company
* All planting is from seed, cutting or donation, along with compost bin, pots and own compost.
* Quotations received for the driveway and carpark at the Hall are sourced from local contractors, however these remain pending (subject to fund-raising, grants etc). /jmd 19.04.22