

## Annual Report of the Churchwardens 2018

### **Firstly, THANK YOU ...**

... to the many people who are on the church duty rota, to those looking after the altar linen, those who have helped with churchyard maintenance, the lockers and unlockers, the cleaners and the flower arrangers, the organisers of social and fund-raising events – in fact to anyone who contributes in any way to the running of Christ Church. We value your help highly and do hope you will be able to continue helping in 2019.

### **Churchyard**

Thanks to all who help to keep the churchyard tidy. The churchyard has been mown on a regular basis by Darren Cartwright and he has also cut the conservation area and the hedges. As part of the WW1 Centenary commemorations, the Hulland Ward Gardening Club planted some hardy cyclamen around the war memorial. Approval has been obtained to have a sign on the churchyard railings indicating the presence of a Commonwealth War Grave in the churchyard.

### **Safeguarding and Health and Safety**

The PCC has a standing item on every agenda to consider safeguarding and health and safety issues including reviewing the Safeguarding Audit Action Plan adopted by the PCC on 20 June 2017.

### **Church Fabric**

The repairs to the tower roof and rainwater goods, recommended in the last Quinquennial Report, were completed. A new seven-day timer has been fitted to the church heating system. This enables us to control the heating more effectively.

### **Font Area**

As reported to the last APCM, as part of our Mission Action Plan, we have applied for a faculty to reorder the north-west corner of the church. The proposed works are to:

1. Remove the large font and the adjacent back pew, and level the floor to create a fellowship / welcoming area. The existing font will be offered for sale/ removal to another church, or another suitable recipient.
2. Purchase a new modern portable font which could be used at the front or back of the church.
3. Insert two glass panels into the internal door from the porch into the church to enable visitors to see into the main body of the church.

A large part of 2018 (and into this year) was taken up with attempting to satisfy the

Diocesan Advisory Committee over the design of the new font and trying to find a new home for the old font. The Diocese require that the old font must go to another church or “other seemly and appropriate setting”. It may not be used as, for example, a bird bath or planter in the churchyard or a private garden. We have offered it to three museums, all of which have declined. It’s also on the Church Commissioners’ Contents List or surplus church furniture – we have had enquiries but none has come to anything.

At a meeting with the Archdeacon to discuss the conditions attached to the faculty approval, it was decided to remove the old font to storage for two years to enable the works to proceed, and give more time for any interested parties to come forward. If no suitable home can be found after two years, the font must be broken up and buried in the churchyard. Also agreed was the position of the new font at the front of the nave which will be the same as that of the existing small font.

It is planned to carry out the work over the period May to July 2019.

### **Gutters and Downpipes**

Craig Murphy has cleared the gutters and downpipes in November.

### **Organ**

The repairs to the organ have now been completed although the cost was greater than estimated because the repairer found additional items requiring attention during the progress of the works. However, this is an important investment to make sure that the organ will continue to function effectively for many years to come.

### **Village Horticultural and Craft Show**

Thank you to all those who supported last year’s show on 25<sup>th</sup> August by entering one or more classes. The overall Adult Show Champion this year was Eric Massey and Chloe Allsop and Henry Richardson were the joint Junior Champions. Section winners were: Domestic – Rachel Jeffery-Walker and Stephanie Jones; Flowers, Plants and Vegetables – Eric Massey; Handicraft, Art and Exhibit – Elizabeth Embley; Photography – Roy Russell; Pre-School – Eleanor Walker-Foss; Reception and Years 1 & 2 – Henry Richardson; Years 3-6 – Chloe Allsop. The Reverend Linda Webb presented the awards to the winners.

### **Flower Festival**

Our annual Flower Festival, from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August, with the theme 'Children's TV Past and Present', was a great success although numbers were down as a result of the bad weather on the Sunday. We would offer our thanks to all our visitors, sponsors and everyone who helped in any way to make the weekend a time of celebration and enjoyment. The final amount raised was £3,034 towards the upkeep of the church, churchyard and other running expenses.

### **Welcome Packs**

We continue to issue welcome packs to new residents in the parish. This will be particularly important for the new developments in Hulland Ward. Thanks to Norman Greville for organising this.

## Hulland Herald

Christ Church continues to be a key partner in the Hulland Herald newsletter. Church members organise most of the deliveries.

## Attendance

These are provided for the annual return of Statistics for Mission and compiled from the service register.

Service	Attendance 2015		Attendance 2016		Attendance 2017		Attendance 2018	
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday All Age (Average)	32.2	10.3	30.6	6.3	27.1	5.3	28.2	7.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday HC (Average)	23.3	0	24.4	0	23.8	0	24	0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Praise (Average)	19.9	0.75	15.6	0	14.5	0	13.7	0
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday HC (Average)	30.7	0.8	34.2	0	34.9	0	33.5	1.6
Messy Church (Average)							36	31.3
Mothering Sunday	59	17	47	17	44	16	32	9
Easter Day	64	13	46	2	27	3	40	7
Flower Festival Songs of Praise	81	8	97	3	79	1	78	3
Harvest Thanksgiving	40	0	46	1	47	2	35	5
Christingle	38	17	34	17	32	18	35	15
Carol Service	79	3	77	13	57	5	74	11
Crib Service	150	45	155	64	136	80	81	25
Christmas Day	45	4	32	2	17	0	24	2

### Notes

1. Any special factors affecting attendances, such as baptisms, have been excluded.
2. The Easter Day Service 2017 was at 6.30pm
3. The Christmas Day Service 2017 was Praise with HC

*Rosie Dias and Steve Dunning*