

Annual Report of the Churchwardens 2019

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 2020.

Churchyard

The churchyard has been mown on a regular basis by Darren Cartwright. For the first time this year, he has also cut all of the hedges, which made the churchyard look nice and tidy for the Flower Festival. The PCC has approved repairs to the northern section of the churchyard wall and the provision of drainage channels near to the main gate. A tree survey is to be commissioned.

Church Fabric

Leaks from the tower into the porch have caused significant problems during heavy rain. Further work by Simon Knight to the gutters and downpipes seems to have cured the problem, although we did get occasional leaks during the major storms in February 2020. Estimates are to be obtained for redecorating the porch.

Welcome and Fellowship Area

The work to reorder the north-west corner of the nave, and create a welcome and fellowship area, has now been completed. This comprised:

- Removing the old font and the rear pew
- Levelling and carpeting the floor
- Providing a new, custom-made, portable font at the front of the nave
- Providing new custom-made bookshelves
- Providing new leaflet displays and notice board
- Providing a table, chairs and materials for children.

The new area has also improved facilities for wheelchairs and buggies, for refreshments after services, and for small meetings. The old, large font has been sold to a company who are renovating the former Methodist church in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland; apparently the church dates from 1764 and was Scotland's oldest Methodist church (John Wesley preached there several times).

Signage

New, more attractive, permanent welcome signs are to be provided at the churchyard gate and next to the church door.

New LED Display Screen

As part of our Mission Action Plan, a new 75" LED Screen is to be provided, subject to faculty approval, on the east nave wall to enable the words of hymns and songs, together with other relevant images, to be projected during services. Improvements to the existing audio system are also being considered.

Altar Linen

The white burse and veil was badly stained. It has now been completely repaired by the Cathedral Embroidery Group and is looking splendid again.

Village Horticultural and Craft Show

Thank you to all those who supported last year's show on 24th August by entering one or more classes. The overall Adult Show Champion this year was Michael Pipes and Chloe Allsop and Henry Richardson was the Junior Champion. Section winners were: Domestic – Lily Sweeney; Flowers, Plants and Vegetables – Bill Jones; Handicraft, Art and Exhibit – Elizabeth Embley; Photography – Michael Pipes; Pre-School – Eleanor Walker-Foss; Reception and Years 1 & 2 – tied Harriet Shimwell and Tom Dixon; Years 3-6 – Henry Richardson. Jenny Potts presented the awards to the winners.

Flower Festival

Our annual Flower Festival, from Saturday 24th to Monday 26th August, with the theme 'Emergency Services', was a great success, and the reduction of one day did not seem to make a big difference. The Songs of Praise was made extra special by the presence of representatives of the emergency services. 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 £3,682 towards the upkeep of the church, churchyard and other running expenses. This was an increase on 2018.

Five Villages Fete

The biennial Five Villages Fete was held at Carsington Water on Sunday 14 July. This was an enjoyable day of fun preceded by an outdoor service. Our share of the profit was £642.

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.

Hulland Herald

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

Attendance

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

Service	Attendance 2016		Attendance 2017		Attendance 2018		Attendance 2019	
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
1 st Sunday All Age (Average)	30.6	6.3	27.1	5.3	28.2	7.5	25.2	6.3
2 nd Sunday HC (Average)	24.4	0	23.8	0	24	0	23.7	0
3 rd Sunday Praise (Average)	15.6	0	14.5	0	13.7	0	15	0
4 th Sunday HC (Average)	34.2	0	34.9	0	33.5	1.6	31.4	0
Messy Church (Average)					36	31.3	31	26
Mothering Sunday	47	17	44	16	32	9	See Note 4	
Easter Day	46	2	27	3	40	7	44	2
Flower Festival Songs of Praise	97	3	79	1	78	3	68	0
Harvest Thanksgiving	46	1	47	2	35	5	28	0
Christingle	34	17	32	18	35	15	32	13
Carol Service	77	13	57	5	74	11	90	11
Crib Service	155	64	136	80	81	25	75	33
Christmas Day	32	2	17	0	24	2	36	6

Notes

1. Any special factors affecting attendances, such as festivals and baptisms, have been excluded.
2. The Easter Day Service 2017 was at 6.30pm.
3. The Christmas Day Service 2017 was Praise with HC.
4. The Mothering Sunday Service 2019 was UB at Hognaston.

Steve Dunning and David Pembrington