

Churchwarden's Report and Churchyard Report 2019

It was going oh so well this summer and autumn of 2019, Church services were being well attended and the social side of St Andrews was doing exceptionally well events like picnic in the meadow, scarecrow competition, Village quiz, and of course the Christmas fair and words for voices all successful events organised by St Andrews for the community. So to was our overseas coach trips on a Sunday nights more coaches than ever. Christmas time meant we had A Great Christmas tree festival, Carol service and Christmas related services all successful.

Then bang. We could not even finish the charity lunches due to the virus like everything else everything came to complete stop. No church services no social events, no coffee mornings no income except the church lights!! And some private donations.

The church building and the churchyard of course are still under Constant management Watch. Making sure the gutters and downpipes are working , checking the roof tiles and the tower roof flagpole are in good condition, they are. The dreaded ivy is kept off from growing up the outside walls. The church electrics are three quarters of the way to being updated and signed off as compliant. The virus has slowed this work down.

The churchyard foliage this summer got out of hand but thanks to Johnny Gosling we now have it back and control and looking a lot better. The large holly tree in the centre of the churchyard had to be taken down this autumn due to it being attacked and kill by fungus. I would like to thank Helen Mortimer for organising the taking down of the tree.

The church bells [6] have not really been looked at since 2000, John Staddon is organising a free Survey of the bell chamber, hopefully all is well.

Lastly but at least I like to thank Jeff Bassett for all his hard work as a fellow churchwarden, his witt is second to none and I wish him all God's love at this difficult Time for him. A heartfelt thank you to all people behind-the-scenes that keep our church operating so efficiently, whether it is grass cutting, hoovering, cleaning, and printing and flower arrangers.

St Andrews is also blessed for not only having rev John Williams as good as that it is but we're lucky to have the Rev Mark Bate living next door, praise the Lord for our blessings.

To the future, we have to be strong and work together no matter what it takes to support St Andrews in these very difficult Times we can all do our bit no matter how small.

Simon Preece
Churchwarden