

Churchwarden's Report to the APC Meeting – 10th May2023

- (a). Our parish church is one of seven parishes in the benefice of West Purbeck. We now have a clerical team leader, Rev Canon Richard Bartlett. He has three other ordained ministers in his team. Our vicar, Rev Sandra Williams, covers Bere Regis and Affpuddle. Rev Jenny Alidina and Rev David Chillman make up the full team. They are all splendid folk and I strongly encourage you to call on them (or me) when you are in need of support.
- (b) Quinquennial Update (Condition of the Church) - There are still some items outstanding from the last Quinquennial e.g. pointing of windows. Effort is allocated as volunteers (and funds) become available.
- (c) Churchyard - The mowing rota is now in operation. We have a splendid team of volunteers though more are always welcome. Some levelling of the church yard is needed. The mole hills are still a nuisance.
- (d) Heating - The Church is heated by Calor Gas heaters. The gas system is in good order but one of the heaters needs replacing. We are looking at alternative "green" methods of heating.
- (e) Our team of volunteers also extends to Flower Arrangements (where some very excellent skills are exhibited), and hosts to the church services (we call these hosts "sidesmen"). We also read the lesson in the service and prepare some prayers for the whole village (intercessions)
- (f) Our funds are raised by voluntary donations and by functions and events. We are required to pay a quota (also known as Share) to the Diocese at Salisbury. This pays for the Clergy. We tend to fall short of the funds we should pay to the Diocese, typically by £3,000 in the annual share of £20,000.
- (g) Lavatory - We have managed for 900 years without a lavatory at the church, but finally, the appropriate people have agreed that we can install one. Now we are preparing the planning application.
- (h) Flagpole – We have installed a temporary flag pole for the Coronation and hope to get a grant for a permanent flagpole.
- (i) We are planning a summer fete in Cruck Cottage, Mrs' Badcock's garden, on Saturday 24th June, with a musical theme.
- (j) The safeguarding schemes which apply to our various officers are under control, there being two due soon.

M Menzies

April 2023