

Churchwardens Report 2018

I would like to start this report by saying that I am sorry I am not with you in person today, it was a hard decision between St Andrews and the Mediterranean. However I have asked Ayesha to read this report to you she's much better looking than I am.

Where did 2018 go!

It has flown past. The new Central heating boiler commissioned in April was our biggest outlay financially and we still have work to do in making the church warmer.

Congregational numbers have shown a small increase and it is good to see more people reading the lessons and leading prayers at Sunday services. I feel a real positive buzz about St Andrews.

This coming year there are a lot of social community events planned helping to reach out to those who live in the parish. These events of course, are vital to keeping St Andrews financially alive. I pay tribute to those who put so much hard work into organising and making sure these events are success. If our church is to survive then we have to look to the younger generation to safeguard it's future and to this end I am gratified that our PCC has a younger element to it. Ayesha, Sam and Annie thank you for getting involved, these three ladies are a breath of fresh air.

St Andrews continues to function thanks to the help of so many doing the jobs that have to be done from tea making, cleaning, coffee mornings that are held once a month, flower arranging and of course management of the churchyard. I mentioned the churchyard, well I would because it has now been recognised as one of the best kept in Devon. It never ceases to amaze me the number of people who help out behind-the-scenes doing many little jobs when asked. I could not do what I do without this help and it is much appreciated.

The fabric of the Church is in good order thanks to the hard work of Jeff Bassett and Anne Hawken. This year sees our Quinquennial inspection being carried out sometime over the summer months. The inspection covers the structure of the church inside and out, this is carried out every five years, fingers crossed that nothing untoward is identified! The church organ has had its tune up. The bellringers have been ringing, I am not aware of any problems in that department.

As a Church we should be blessed and I think we are, we have the Rev John Williams leading from the front so gratefully supported by Rev Mark Bate,. John and Mark give us so much in time and spiritual leadership.

Jeff Bassett my fellow churchwarden does a great job especially when I am not around. And then of course there is Anne Hawken who keeps Jeff Bassett and myself in line and again there's so much Anne does behind-the-scenes as well as all the mothers union work. Yes St Andrews is blessed.

When you become churchwarden you often wonder how your Church is doing compared to others of similar size, this has now turned me into a church anorak whenever Jo and myself are on holiday we are always popping in to churches on our travels, and it doesn't take long to realise how lucky we are in having St Andrews.

Jeff and myself as your churchwardens thank you for your support over the last 12 months and look forward to your support in the coming 12 months.

Simon Preece churchwarden