

St Mary-the-Virgin Church, Great Brickhill

Annual Church Meeting, Tuesday 30th April 2019

Warden's Report

Some of you may recall that at the AGM last year it was my intention to step down from Churchwarden this year. The last nine months or so, have been very busy ones for me. Travelling to London most weeks to help look after my grandchildren for a couple of days certainly makes for very short weeks. And then as some of you will know Michael and I have just moved out of the farmhouse after 45 years. So I apologise for the shortness of my report this evening.

There are so many people to thank for keeping our lovely church going.

Firstly our services. Thank you John we've had some joyful services and special occasions. Thanks too to our visiting clergy, Sister Hazel, Robert Wright and Norman Thorp, and to Jeremy and Valerie, and also Phillipa.

Thanks to our organists Jerry, Susan and Rosemary. Thanks also to Jerry for arranging the choir, and for the concert in June with The Woburn Sands Cryers, perfectly partnered with an exhibition of paintings by Gill-y-Anne, and cream teas!

Thank you David for getting a team together to ring the bells most Sundays; I love to hear them, especially at the Remembrance Service when they are muffled.

The temporary roof covering still keeps the church dry. Earlier this year small cuts in the plaster were made in approved places to ventilate the roof spaces.

At the AGM last year we reported that the refreshment point had been moved to the back of the church, and I think this has certainly been successful in freeing up the area by the vestry steps. We look forward to creating greater space here for a gathering area.

Fund raising is as ever most important. The Plant Fayre was hugely successful this year. We are very grateful to John and Celia Hall for organising this event. I would like to mention St Mary's cafe team, Karen Chalmers, Joy and Alexa Wilson, Janet Blake, Phillipa Cook and Sue Blofeld for their fantastic help.

The Snowdrop Walks, so enjoyable for so many, and a great fundraiser. Thank you David and Sally Duncombe for letting us hold this again this year.

I am aware we have a small army of volunteers to help with, cleaning, mowing, locking, flower arranging etc; Thank you so much for all you do.

So here I am again, back for another year. This coming year our Quinquennial is due. I am confident we now have an architect we can work with to help keep this lovely church not only a place of worship or quiet prayer and contemplation but also somewhere to find friendship and support.

I have certainly found that and I am truly thankful.