

# CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT ANNUAL MEETING – PHILLIPA COOK

**Tuesday 17th March 2026**

Good evening,

Following Julia's steps last year was a tall order. But thank you Julia for always being there, helping out in so many ways. Your practical help and your wise counsel are much appreciated.

There is a full report of services, events, work on the church fabric etc in the written Annual Report for 2025. It is long but no apologies for that as it shows how busy we have been. There are a few things to mention from the first few months of 2026:-

The service with Bishop Dave on 4th January, which included confirmation of three candidates from the Benefice. It was a wonderful, joyous occasion and a great way to start the year.

The Snowdrop Walks followed and they were again a great success. Thank you to Sir David and Sally Duncombe for allowing us to wander round their wonderful grounds – we never take his for granted and are very grateful each year.

Something exciting to look forward to is the launch of a Baby and Toddler Group, on Mondays from 10am to 12 noon on Mondays during term time from 20th April.

Two not such good things have occurred:

i). A big mains water leak, discovered only when Anglian Water came to read the meter in January. There is no sign of where the water is going, and it is proving very difficult to locate the leak. We now have a groundwork specialist looking into the problem. In the meantime, we turn the water on only when there is something happening in the church.

ii). The boiler has failed terminally. It was very much on its last legs and then water got into the circuit board due to a leak in the boiler room roof. As you will know from the Annual Report, we are already a long way down the path of installing an air source heat pump and so that is now more of a priority, to get this up and running by the autumn. Fortunately, the problem occurred as the weather started to improve but apologies to anyone who finds it a little cool.

It just remains to give thanks to all those who give generously of their time for the good of the church:

- Members of the PCC
- The clergy who come when John is on leave
- Jerry, Andrew, Margretta and Sophia for their contribution to the music
- Members of the choir, and bell ringers
- A special note of thanks to David Middleton who retired as Tower Captain in July after many years of dedicated service, and to Rosemary and Andy Howell for taking over that role
- Those on the rotas covering various tasks from reading, to flower arranging, unlocking to mowing etc. The rota works well, except that we could do with more on the cleaning rota – volunteers will be welcome. I would love not having to do that so often, not the best use of my time.
- Cake makers and helpers for all our fundraising events

And finally, Stuart for taking on the role of Warden – it has probably been a steep learning curve. But you can do many things that my poor knees won't allow me to!

And so John, this is your last Annual Meeting with us – your 25th!!! There will be time for us to reflect properly on your time here on a later occasion, but thank you for your ministry, especially during those times that were very difficult and challenging for you. We wish you well in the next chapter of your life, in Worcester near family and friends.

***Phillipa J Cook***

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