

HAZELBURY BRYAN WITH STOKE WAKE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ST MARY AND ST JAMES CHURCH

Report for the year ended 31st December 2012

With neither a Priest in charge for the benefice or an assistant curate in the village for 2012 the PCC were wondering what the coming year would bring.

Unfortunately the year started badly with the discovery in January 2012 that the lead on the South aisle roof had been stolen. Even worse was the discovery that the organ (sited directly underneath the area of stolen lead) was very badly damaged through water ingress and was unplayable. Fortunately the Clavinova was undamaged and so music at services has continued.

As damage caused through metal theft is now so prevalent, the insurance company has limited its cover and payment for damage caused, so fundraising became a priority.

Despite the problems and building work, no Services had to be cancelled.

As lead continues to be stolen throughout the country, it was decided to replace the roof covering with stainless steel and this was completed in time for Christmas. Attention is now being given to getting the organ back in working condition.

There have also been minor repairs to the building and it is thought to be in a good condition.

Rev. William Ridding of Spire Hill benefice has continued to have responsibility for our six parishes and with the help of retired priests, lay ministers, lay worship leaders and our benefice administrator, we have been able to maintain the regular service pattern during the past year.

Rev. David Dunning, a retired priest from Milborne Port, has volunteered to assist within the benefice and is taking services and visiting parishioners and the children at the school.

All our services continue to be well supported. Christmas Services, both Midnight Mass and Christmas Day, were very well attended - even better than last year.

Special services in the Church last year included a Service celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a "Songs of Praise", the Harvest festival, a Remembrance Service and a Gift service.

The school holds its Easter, Harvest, Christmas and end-of-term Services in the church and every Wednesday prayers are said with people being welcome to put requests for prayers on the "Prayer Tree" in the church.

At the end of 2012 there were 67 on the Church Electoral Roll.

During the year there were 2 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 9 Funeral / Memorial Services.

The post of house-for duty priest-in-charge for the benefice was re-advertised and this time there were 2 applicants. Unfortunately neither were considered suitable.

The PCC is still investigating the possibility of providing toilet and refreshment facilities, but such a major step of re-ordering or building is something that requires a lot of careful planning and thought.

The church would like the support of the village for whatever is to be done as the lack of basic facilities for visitors is a problem that needs to be resolved.

Fundraising events this year (besides the fete) has included:

- a concert by the Mill Singers,
- the Dorset Historic Churches "Ride and Stride" as well as a sponsored cycle ride from Land's End to Lowestoft by Godfrey Symes,
- and a "Murder Mystery" evening held in the village hall.

There have also been several, often anonymous, donations for the organ.

The PCC have had to concentrate on fundraising for the roof and organ, but have also made the following donations and gifts.

The money from the Lent lunch was donated to Breathe On UK by The Mothers' Union who organised the event.

The dry goods given at the Harvest Festival went to North Dorset Women's Refuge.

The collection from the Harvest Service, along with the collection at the children's school Harvest Service, was sent to the NSPCC at the request of the children in our primary school.

Gifts of toiletries suitable for teenagers and snacks given at the Christingle / Gift service were taken to Waves at Weymouth. The collection from both this Service and the Carol Service held the next week was sent to Waves as well.

The PCC has given money to Elizabeth House in Uganda.

100 Mother's Union badges for Lui in South Sudan were purchased and taken out by Pauline Batstone.

To the school, the "Good Citizen" prize and "Moving on" books for the leavers were presented.

The collection for the Remembrance service was given to the Earl Hague Fund.

The Churchwardens and members of the PCC would like to express their thanks to all who, during the year, have given their time and skills to the life of the church. Your contribution, small or large, is enormously valued and appreciated.

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts are in the church.