

APCM Churchwarden Report – 24th May 2021

Fabric

St Michael & All Angels: Further to the problems in the south transept due to bad storms in March 2020, work was carried out and it was assessed that the walls are stable, new ties have been put in place to monitor movement over the coming years.

Maintenance and development plans have been further delayed and it is hoped these works will be able to be progressed before too long.

The churchyard continues to be kept tidy with regular grass cutting. The trees, ivy and brambles on the southern boundary have been cut back away from the graves along that side. The paths around the church and the Old Exchange have been cleared of weeds and brambles. The rusting gate from the churchyard to the field along the public footpath has been replaced with a galvanised gate.

St Andrew's: The structure is in good condition and no works have been required.

Activities

These past twelve months have been very different for us all during this time of Coronavirus, with our lovely churches being closed for long periods of time and no activities. We all had to find new ways of doing things and thanks to technology we have been able to bring church services into peoples' homes. Fr Michael ensured that weekly services have continued with the technological ability of Steve Collier. Readers were keen to help by sending video recordings of readings from their homes and gardens, and sermons from priests from the area who were also keen to send sermons by video.

Fr Michael set up a Zoom account and we all found a new way of having weekly mid-week eucharist and the Pilgrim Lent course as well as meetings, all via Zoom.

A website was quickly developed to enable easy communication and for those unable to access the website the weekly newsletter was posted to them, keeping everyone in touch.

A telephone tree was established and calls made to members of the community for a chat and offers of help in any way that was required.

Safeguarding communications from the Diocese have been appropriately dealt with. The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed at the next PCC meeting. The Parish has complied with its safeguarding duties under Statute. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

From April 2020 to March 2021 we had no weddings or Baptisms at Stokenham or Beesands. During the same period we had 4 funerals 2 of which were followed by burial, 1 graveside burial and 2 interment of ashes.

Fundraising for Church and Charities

Sadly there have been no fundraising activities due to Coronavirus.

Finally

We would like to give a massive vote of thanks to all those who have been so supportive during the very difficult times of the past year.

Fr Michael, with huge support from Janie, has been a tower of strength to all of us and has worked so incredibly hard to keep us all uplifted in such challenging circumstances.

There has been such a great number of people who have supported us all in so many ways and we can't thank you enough; those who have washed and ironed linen, cleaned and polished, provided technology and music, arranged flowers, tidied the paths, submitted readings, kept the flags flying and have just 'been there' offering support, encouragement and help in so many ways.

Your help is very much appreciated and we thank you.