

St Mary the Virgin Thornborough REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL AGM MAY 2016

God has continued to bless us in so many ways, shown through the many people who have supported St Mary's to keep it as an active place of Christian worship and presence in the village community.

I would especially like to thank the PCC, the many who help with events, the financial backers, and those who come to the services.

Services

We have continued to hold a regular BCP 8.30am service once month, a shared morning service with the Chapel, and during the summer months a popular 'Songs of Praise' evening supported by different choirs and speaker.

Likewise the Festival services have been enjoyed by many – and the introduction of the half hour Easter Sunday service and a new Christmas Day Family service have been well supported.

The school's After School Messy Craft contributions towards making decorations for Harvest, and Mothering Sunday Services are appreciated by all.

Many thanks to Andy Spurr and the Community Woodland for supplying our Christmas tree this year, and also to all who arrange flowers throughout the year.

Remembrance service this year had the added bonus of a display, organised by Ray Goodger, of First, Second and Iraqi war memorabilia. Each of the collectors gave the background as to why one of the pieces was special to them.

We heard about an RAF flying record which belonged to a grandfather, a propeller from a plane, and the Thornborough Homeguard uniform that had belonged to someone in the village.

Other one off services.

- Deanery Ascension Day service
- The Oddfellow Service arranged by Mick McStraw
- The Benefice Advent Carol Service, supported by the Buckingham Parish Choir-

Raise the Roof

Many thanks to the 'Raise the roof' fundraising group for all they have contributed this year. Casino night, Summer Music Festival, 60's evening, Harvest Supper & Barn + quizzes etc were all part of 2015 Thornborough's Fun Social calendar.

The funds available in the account as of December 31st 2015 are £28,201.37 having paid out £8,536.96 for professional fees.

(Grant bodies require professional authenticated information prior to their consideration of an application.)

Update on Grant applications.

1. Wren refused our grant application as they considered the Chancel, as stand alone area, was not used enough by the Community.
2. Listed Places of Worship grant – result to be announced end of June 2016.

It has been decided that while we await the outcome of our applications, Raise the Roof would be rebranded the 'Thornborough Fund Raisers', helping to support other organisations and initiatives in the village and beyond.

Chancel Roof

Another year has passed dominated by the Chancel roof project. Victor has stood down from being Project Manager owing to his full time employment. We would like to say how grateful we are for all the work he put in to starting the project off. We are delighted that Sue Kenyon has now taken on the role .

In December it was noted that the chancel ceiling had moved significantly, and we commissioned emergency boarding up of the chancel to protect the Nave and congregation, windows and monuments.

The highlight was the removal of the panelling to expose the entire east window before it was boarded up!

Graveyard

The graveyard continues to be looked after by a group of mowers and strimmers. Thanks to Derek and the 2 Mark's in particular. Also thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support.

School

It is lovely that the church is used by the school for their festival services and events. As the preschool has a very young age group they have not visited the church this year. However we look forward to welcoming the preschool back when the children are ready. The weekly assembly is a highlight of a certain minister's life!

Other Events

- Teddy bears picnic.
The rain held off for 15 or so children with mums , one dad and loads of teddies to enjoy a picnic and a some games in the rectory garden. The parachute games continue to be a favourite.!
- Concert Ellie Parker & Emma Jones saxophonists.
- Story telling – 'Born on the kitchen table' evening facilitated by Cherry Coombe

Occasional Offices.

<i>Funerals.</i>	Hetty Jones, Michael Moore, Peter Brock, Ivy Knight
<i>Internment of Ashes.</i>	Michael Moore, Peter Brock
<i>Wedding</i>	Stephen Bentley & Laura Payne Matthew Barber, Cecelia Warren Thomas
<i>Baptisms</i>	Zac Trofimov Annabelle Chapman

Outreach

We have continued to support charities this year - to include Crisis, Farms in Crisis, Help the heroes, the British Legion, Children's Society, and Buckingham Foodbank

Website

Thanks to Stuart Mitchell who adds the information, photographs and service rotas to St Mary's website. Worth a look if you haven't seen it.!

Finally, thank you to all who support St Mary's, it is a special church, set in a special community.

God Bless,

Gussie (Associate Priest)