

## **St Mary the Virgin Thornborough for Thornborough Parish Council AGM.**

### ***Minister's report***

Another busy year which God has continued to bless us in so many ways.

To 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 we are truly grateful.

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

### Thankyou

Charlotte the Churchwarden, Carol helping with the accounts, Dave as Chair/ Deanery Synod rep and with Jill a great support in other events and duties.

To Ray for looking after the tower which this year was for a time 'de-jackdowed', the bells and the clock.

Our thanks go to Maggie Beach and Clair Morgan who stood down from PCC activities in the summer owing to other commitments. Our thanks go to them for all the help and time given during their stint on the PCC.

Thank you also to Stuart Mitchell who keeps the St Mary's Website up to date, and for Maggie Beach editing the relaunch of the Thornborough news

Thank you to Ray for researching and installing the CCTV.

To all those involved in the 'Raise the roof' fundraising - especially Ann Payne, Cath Sayer, and their team- to the bakers and helpers at the Porch sale, flower arrangers, cleaners, and those who take on the sacristan duties. To the organists Collin, Alex, and Martin, the hospitality teams, bell ringers and finally, last but not least, the mowers who have kept the graveyard looking so tidy for the last year + Thornborough Parish Council for their generous gift towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Thank you also to Henry Goodger and others for re-landscaping the far end of the Church yard.

### Services

#### *8.30am Holy Communion.*

The numbers continue to decline this year owing to some of the older members from Buckingham becoming ill or dying.

#### *Chapel / Church joint service*

There were only two this year in the church, as we now meet during the winter months in the luxury of the Chapel. The Chapel joined us for the Remembrance Day Service

#### *Songs of Praise*

This is very much a village time of worship, supported by Buckingham Parish Choir, and The Chase community choir from Whaddon. Various speakers, including those from OCCA, have shared their faith and stories, as well as their favourite hymns which has encouraged and challenged all those who came.

#### *Healing and Wholeness Services*

The introduction of the two Healing and Wholeness services have been appreciated by those who have come. One service were blessed by the music of Ray(keyboard) and Tina Mitchell (Flute) as they played some reflective music during the time offered for personal prayer. A book mark is given to each of the congregation with an encouraging verse relating to the

theme of the service printed on it. The service is organised and led by the LLM's of the Benefice. Paul Wallace, Paul Mileham, Vicky Southby, Sandra Cosby, Val Evans, Pauline Stanton Saringer, John Hamilton.

### **One off services.**

- The Traditional Benefice Advent Carol Service, arranged by Revd John and Pam King, and supported by the Buckingham Parish Choir was repeated and the comment 'this is my favourite service of the year' was overhead during the refreshment time.

### **Festival Services**

As always the church looks wonderful for the festival services.

- *Mothing Sunday* was based on the theme of love. The School Messy Craft had helped to create the decorations and gifts for their mothers.
- *Easter* We continued with the half hour family service, followed by Holy Communion for those who wish to stay. This was well attended again this year.
- *Harvest* Another triumph with 5 tractors- from Henry Bonner massive machine to Derek Thomas' vintage tractor!. The school children and parents beavered away at Messy craft on the Friday making animals, insects and fish out of paper plates. The WI, Cricket, Friendship, and Gardening club also made them reflecting the ethos of their organisations.

It was a wonderful and colourful occasion

- *Remembrance*

George Capel read the names of all who had fought in the wars as well as those who had died, while his son Martin's window display was as inspiring as ever.

The school children came and stood for a minute's silence at 11.00am on the 11/11 beside the War Memorial

- *Christmas*

The Christmas Carol service, and the Christingle saw a full church. Many thanks to Collin Place & Martin Davies for playing the organ

Thanks to Andy Spurr for the Christmas tree donated by the Coombes Community Woodland Trust. Another magnificent specimen!

Again this year we had a Midnight Communion and a short family service on Christmas morning with Jesus' Birthday cake and Matt Barber reading the Christmas story which was accompanied by percussion instruments

- *Occasional Offices.*

*Funerals.* Rose Price, John Mullis

*Internment of Ashes.* Arthur Burton, Maureen Liscaux, Edie Stuart

*Wedding* Matthew Mc Straw to Abby Spurr

*Baptisms* Holly Gevaux, Oonagh Avery, Jude Parker, Madison Mc Straw

### **Other Events**

- *Lent Course*

Revd Rupert Bursell ran the Lent Course where we looked at the meaning behind the words – Abba, Angels, Adam (First and Last), Amen. All who came enjoyed it a great deal

- *Assemblies*

In the warmer months the school held their Wednesday Revd Gussie assemblies in the church, giving extra space for action songs, and helping the children to understand the symbolism of the interior

- Benefice Lunch  
The Thornborough Village Hall was full for the May Benefice lunch hosted by St Mary's
- Teddy bears picnic.  
The hottest day of the summer held off for the children/ their mums. Carers and grandmothers + one dad and loads of teddies to enjoy a picnic and some games in the rectory garden. The parachute games continue to be a favourite.! Katie Thrift helped to organise it as part of her bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Concert Music in Quiet places came again this year which is always a favourite. Thanks to Charlotte for the hospitality and Maggie for the tour.
- School summer fete, Pre - school father Christmas grotto, School Harvest and Nativity plays took place in the church. Great to have the pre-school back again!
- Prayer corner, candles Over the last year the prayer corner has been well used, and many have remarked on how helpful it was for the church to be open so that they could go and quietly reflect, pray or just sit for a time. The offer of lighting a candle at times of global atrocities has also been well received.

#### Chancel roof project *See report*

Thanks to Sue Kenyon for her expertise in Project Management, and to the support of Steve Coppins and Sue Percival for the successful grant application to the Listed Places of Worship roof repair fund.

#### Finances

See accounts. Thankyou to Dave Wise who audits the accounts once a year. Thankyou to all who have supported the church and rising to the challenge of paying our (just under £8000) Parish share in full again this year! Helped me keep my job! *Porch sales are key to this challenge, so please keep baking and supporting the morning.*

#### Outreach

We have continued to support charities this year - to include Crisis, Farms in Crisis, the British Legion, Children's society, Buckingham Foodbank and others.

#### Deanery Synod

Most of this year has been taken up with discussing the challenges of the job share between Stowe school and Stowe Parish, and resourcing the growth both in the Parish church and Buckingham town. Discussions concerning how the Deanery might be reconfigured took place and in particular the post of the Associate Stipendiary priest in Thornborough.

#### Diocese

This year we welcomed Rt Reverend Steven Croft as our new Bishop of Oxford, and Revd Guy Elsmore as our new Archdeacon of Buckingham.

#### ***So what have we to look forward to in 2017***

Completion and dedication of the new Chancel roof and interior.

Start of Messy Chuch joint venture with the Chapel every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.(already begun)

## Sue Kenyon (Project Manager) report for St Mary's Thornborough ACPM 2017

### Chancel Roof Project - 2016

A busy December 2015 saw us installing emergency boarding to protect the nave, and chancel windows and monuments, from falling debris from the chancel ceiling. In January 2016 we applied for a local grant from WREN for funding for the roof repairs, but were unsuccessful in our application. Better news followed in June, when we received approval from the Listed Places of Worship for our second application, and received a grant of £53,900 towards the cost of roof repairs estimated at c.£90,000. Villagers had worked tirelessly for the past couple of years to raise money for this project with a huge number of varied fund raising events, raising over £36,000. Following successful Faculty applications, we were able to send out tenders for the work after appointing a new architect, Robert Montgomery. Tenders were sent out in the autumn, and we were delighted to finally award the contract in December to Owlsworth IJP. With a start date of January 16th, 2017, we look forward to completing this project by the summer of 2017.

### Post script.

The project should be completed by the first or second week of June.

July 9<sup>th</sup> will be a Celebration Sunday – starting with inviting the Village, and all who have worked on the project to a Thanksgiving Service at 11.00am, followed by a glass of something – then a bring and share Picnic on the green outside the village hall, before the Sports and Social Club –Family Sports afternoon. Whether this will continue into the evening with a music event is yet to be discussed.