

SYRESHAM CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2022

Church Fabric. The SCC decided at meetings in November and February to split the Quinquennial repairs into four tranches:

- i. Shingles on the tower.
- ii. A list important repairs.
- iii. B List Repairs that can wait until years 2 & 3 of the Quinquennial.
- iv. Work the SCC can undertake itself.

To this end MOE met with John Barker, Church Architect and James Swingler of Swingler & Sons Northampton at the church on March 14th. Also with Simon Elbrow, builder for general repairs (A List). Both builders will provide estimates to MOE.

Faculties. Duplicate faculty requested Feb 2021 as the donor of the new graveyard extension moved the posts where he had reserved space for himself and his family.

Additions or removals from church. None.

Services and Occasional Offices.

- a) Two baptisms, two funerals and two weddings took place in the church in 2021.
- b) Pattern of Services. Our pattern has settled down to be communion on the first and third Sundays, Morning Worship on the second and Village Praise & Prayer on the fourth Sunday. The last two lay-led. Congregations vary from 8 to 15. Benefice services more. Messy Church has been re-started and is planned 4-5 times per annum for special landmarks in the church year.
- c) Average attendance at Communion services 2021/22: 15, 0 children; Messy Church: 4 adults & seven children; Praise & Prayer and Morning Worship 8-12 adults.
- d) Attendance at major festivals: Christmas Day/Eve + Christingle 233; Easter 41; Harvest 29.

Work undertaken by Churchwarden

- a) With the incumbent, visited recently bereaved or people who had had a hard time December 2021. Distributed 22 plants and two envelopes of money. Another member of the SCC distributed a further 12 pots and 2 envelopes. The Hammond Fund for the Poor finance this.
- b) Finally arranged for the consecration of the Graveyard Extension in Wappenham Road. This was performed by Bishop John on February 10th.
- c) Divided up the Quinquennial repair work and started getting quotations as 1) above.

Fundraising. Very little possible because of Covid restrictions in 2021. We raised some £350 via stalls at the Scarecrow Festival and income from a U3A talk given by MOE in the Church April 2021. We also contributed time and prizes to Benefice Fundraising Events.

Financially we met £13k of our £14k target this year. This was an increase of some £1000 over 2020. We were also able to help Helmdon with their roof repairs from our Roof Repair Fund.

Our thanks to Rev'd Diane Whittaker for her involvement and support. Also to Alice Palmer who takes two services per month: *Morning Worship* and *Praise & Prayer*. She also maintains the connection between faith school and church in Syresham with two '*school services*' per annum and weekly assemblies led by a team from church and chapel. To church organist and choirmaster David Wright. Thanks also to all those who help with the church in Syresham: readers, intercessors, coffee makers, sacristans and sides-people. And to those who maintain contacts with friends who are unable to get to services. Finally we would like to thank churchyard workers & mowers, cleaners, flower arrangers and all those who help to keep St James Church safe, clean and tidy.

Malcolm Orr-Ewing
Churchwarden

SCC Report Syresham 2021/22

We had two SCC meetings in August and November, when Covid restrictions were relaxed. One in February 2022. Rev'd Diane was able to attend the 2021 meetings.

Current members of the SCC (formerly BRICC) are:

Malcolm Orr-Ewing (Chair)
Brenda Faragher (Treasurer)
Alice Palmer
Martin Brown (Madge & Maud Payne Funds Manager)
Kathleen Brunning (Minute Secretary)
Sallie Connery (200 Club and Hammond Fund Manager)
David Wright

Malcolm Orr-Ewing
Acting Secretary
April 2022