

Report for 2014 - 2015 - All Saints Church, Corston

The outstanding event last year was of course our farewell to our Rector Richard Hall after 27 years' ministry here. Special services were held with lunch after the morning service and refreshments after the evening service. A collection for Richard raised a very large sum from both church members and the wider village.

We would like to thank so many people for their support particularly since Richard left last October.

As a rule attendances fall away during a vacancy, but we are so pleased this has not happened in Corston which is very encouraging for our church life. We are grateful to retired clergy and to our Readers and lay team for leading and taking part in our services.

We want to thank people who serve on the PCC, the PCC committees and chairmen, lesson readers, people who prepare intercessions, organists, sidespeople and sacristan, the North Aislars for their music, bell ringers and flower arrangers, Gwyn and Tony Beck who look after our flower border and Mel, Jane and Anthony who have done work on trees in the church yard, the Adopt a Tree people and Ray Stevens who keeps the grass looking so good. Thanks too for the people who lock and unlock the church, our cleaners, Sophie our Fire Officer who has also helped us greatly with her computer skills in producing the Christmas and Easter cards and our Parish Profile, and Robert who does a monthly maintenance check of the building. We thank Bette and her team for organising the market and Jean and her team for organising the soup lunches and Emily for taking over the Social Committee who is very active in planning social events. There are many behind the scenes jobs done to keep our church alive so to all these people, and to those who give generously financially, we say a very sincere thank you.

Works carried out to the church during the year include the following:

- Repointing the spire
- Repairing the tower door
- Re-laying parts of the surface of the paths
- Repainting the iron bell-frame
- Redecorating the ringing-chamber

The Corston Church Preservation Trust, launched last May, is preparing for the next fundraising concert on 31st May. Tickets are selling well already! A very generous interest free loan was made anonymously to the church for us to pay for our spire to be repointed, which was urgently needed. The Preservation Trust has now kindly agreed to pay off the first instalment in July this year.

Our architects have (as required by church law every 5 years) been instructed to provide the PCC with a detailed Report on the condition of the structure of our church . All works recommended in the previous (2010) Report have now been completed.

We are grateful to Corston Parish Council for keeping up the pressure on BaNES to provide a pedestrian refuge in the road outside the church. We are delighted that at last this project has been included in the Council's works programme for the current year.

We are looking forward to the coming year and particularly to the arrival of our new Rector - as soon as possible please!

Jane Jones

Liz Acton

Churchwardens, All Saints Church, Corston