

ST NICOLAS, OLD SHOREHAM - CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

January to December 2023

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who has continued to support us in the role of churchwardens. It has been heartwarming that when we have asked for "volunteers", members of the congregation have come forward to offer their help. We really appreciate this as it lightens our load and we welcome working as a team.

Helen and her band of cake makers deserve another big thank you. The coffee mornings have continued to be a very valuable social hub, bringing in not only members of the benefice but also an increased number of local residents of Shoreham who regularly attend. During the year, Helen has once again raised over £3000, which included donations to the Children's Society, Macmillan Nurses and Family Support Work. The December Christmas raffle in aid of the Shoreham and Adur Foodbank raised £120 and this was further boosted to £170 by a donation from a member of the congregation who had sold handmade Christmas Tree ornaments.

We are very grateful to the following people:

Lena and Becky, our church organists and the choir for their wonderful church music and concerts.

Our volunteer cleaners who have continued to keep the church looking spic and span – there are often comments in the visitor's book about how well kept the church is. The flower ladies have continued their hard work producing beautiful floral arrangements and Mother's Day flowers.

Also, to Mike and Sarah Burt who continue to not only look after the Garden of Remembrance, but have been tidying up some of the older graves and repainting railings, reinforcing how much the church is loved and cared for.

Our thanks also go to our Sacristan, Ian Muzio, to Philip Cheesman for the daily opening and closing the church, to our sides persons, for Pam and Dennis for their pastoral work and Prayers for Healing. Once again Roger Rowson has provided invaluable work on the maintenance of the church, including cleaning and weeding the church paths, climbing ladders to clean out the gutters, clearing the surrounding gulleys and much more that goes unnoticed.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to support a couple with their marriage plans at St Nicolas and also support the families of the bereaved with funeral and memorial services.

Early summer brought the long awaited erection of the scaffolding, so the repairs to the tower could commence to try and solve the problem of water ingress. With very little interruption for bad weather the works were completed and signed off by the architect in August.

Whilst the tower was being repaired it was noticed that the weather vane looked in serious need of restoration and the rusted supports were beginning to crumble. Following a PCC meeting it was agreed that we should utilize the scaffolding already there, and commission the removal and repair of the vane. It was also decided we should use a small part of the legacy from John Nobbs to pay for this work in his memory. A local blacksmith was employed to remake the support struts in a stronger metal and repair the fabric of the cockerel. This was then passed to a local gilder, who did sterling work to bring the cockerel back to its original shining glory. It was then reinstated in its rightful position overlooking the Adur Valley and has been admired and commented on by a number of the local community.

A very much needed new sound system has been installed. This is thanks to another generous donation, in memory of Les Alden who was a very valued member of the congregation and choir.

General maintenance of the church has continued in accordance with the logbook.

We will continue to support Fr James, Rev Pat and the parishioners and hope we have always provided a welcome at St Nicolas for you all and the visitors that come through our door.

Sue Bartlett and Gill Powell
Churchwardens