

COGGES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Churchwardens' report

Report on the Fabric, Ornaments and Goods of St Mary's Church, Cogges

In summer 2016 we completed the first part of works to the car park, with a new entrance at the north end, parkland fencing, and much of the surrounding scrub cleared.

During the past year we have commissioned the next Quinquennial Inspection of the fabric of the Church from architects Acanthus Clews. The roofs of the Church gave rise to immediate actions, including the installation of an alarm system to help protect the lead roof, with substantial grant aid. A much larger roof project will be required within the year to repair failing lead roofing, and replace the stone-slate roof over the Chancel and North Chapel. This work will be eligible for financial support but will still require a significant capital investment from parish funds.

Other works will be required over the term of the QI, including works to the exterior (conservation of render, repointing) some specialist studies (stained glass) and an over-haul of rainwater drainage. There are also several smaller projects, some of which may be undertaken by working groups from the congregation.

Fortunately, the interior is largely in good order. We have updated the AV system and re-tuned the organ.

Work on the digital fabric has also continued with several policies being updated: Data Protection Policy, Health and Safety, Volunteering and Complaints. We are working with the staff team on the implementation of these policies and on the wider use of digital systems within the church.

We would like to thank the team of volunteers who during the year mowed the grass in the churchyard, pruned and weeded and kept it looking so good. We would also like to thank the team of volunteers that clean the church building, arrange the flowers and place the banners and altar cloths. Thank you to the Sidesmen (and ladies), Welcomers, the Coffee Teams, and many more.

The job of churchwarden would be absolutely impossible without the assistance of many other people within the Church Family – thank you to you all.

Thank you for all you are doing.

James Webster and Gerry Wait