



Fabric

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *Colossians 3:17*

Aim

The committee's aim is to manage, on behalf of the PCC, the care, and maintenance of the church, churchyard and vicarage.



Support

In this it remains dependent on, and very grateful to, all those who so generously volunteer their time, effort and skills to keep the church garden tended and our church cleaned and regularly adorned with flowers. We are particularly appreciative of the leaders of those teams who deserve every support. Heather Bird has continued to head the **gardening team** to great effect and co-ordination of the **flower arranging** has been kindly taken on by Thelma Berry, Hilary Bonney and Heather Belton. Sonia Ratsey stoically continues to arrange the **cleaning rota** which is not onerous but now need some fresh volunteers to take a turn.

Work in hand

The Fabric committee met four times with a very high attendance. After a break of several years, both the chairman and the stone bees are back! Decoy nests have now been recommended with further remedial pointing to be carried out in the late summer. Proposals for the toilet and for up-rated central heating, already high on the agenda with budgetary estimates of some £40,000 each, had of necessity to be held over awaiting the outcome of the re-ordering deliberations described earlier in the churchwarden's report. However, the opportunity has been taken to explore more economical options and these are now being re-costed with a view to going ahead as soon as financial resources permit and plans are approved. In the meantime we are grateful to our Verger, Bob Cartland, for his early morning efforts to ensure that the heating, such as it is, has come on in good time.

Future Work

The church architect's quinquennial inspection in January lists a significant number of items which should have attention. Nevertheless, his view is that the church is generally in good condition but will require, in particular, repairs to some roof tiling, the leaded windows on the west and north walls, and to the lead valley gutter between the tower and the chancel roof. In addition, the electrical survey is expected to identify the need to renew ageing cabling with the opportunity for some tidier cable maintenance.

During the year

Recent acquisitions have been new and much welcomed pew cushions throughout the nave and new equipment, largely gifted, to enhance music amplification. The pew-end folding seats were removed to comply with health and safety regulations.

The Friends

As a church community we are very fortunate indeed to have alongside us an independent supportive organisation in the form of the **Friends of Sheet Church**. Formed over ten years ago to enable the wider community to take an active interest in the preservation of the church building as a noteworthy local asset, the Friends have been tireless in their fundraising and generous over identified needs. This year they have met the cost of our new pew covers and are kindly offering to help with up to £15,000 towards the cost of building the new toilet. We have a good reason to be grateful to Mike Barrow, (chair), Colin Mattingley (treasurer), their committee and the many supporters.

Ambrose Barber (Chair of Fabric)