

## St Mary the Virgin Church, Upavon, Churchwardens' Report for 2018

We have had a successful 2018 with many events taking place in the church. It is rewarding to see our beautiful Church being used more; the Toddler Group meeting every Monday, our Coffee morning on the last Saturday of every month is growing and enjoyed by all. Our September Coffee Morning was in aid of The Macmillan Nurses. We held our Fête in September on a near perfect day, this made use of the Churchyard and Church, it was gratifying to have such support from so many people, thank you all very much!

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Church in so many ways throughout the year; all the members of the PCC especially our Treasurer and Secretary, the flower arrangers, led by Gill Thompson, to all who clean and keep the church tidy, our sides-people, readers, intercessors and chalice bearers. Thanks to Fairleigh Elrington for helping to keep the church secure, by locking and unlocking the church daily.

Thanks to Sarah Davis, Michael Fay, Tom Turner and Ellen Sargent, our stalwart organists. Thank to Peter Hughes for his expertise in looking after our clock and to Jill and Peter for editing the Together Magazine. Thanks to Virginia Thorne and the group of distributors for delivering the Magazine.

Our grateful thanks go to members of our Social Committee led by Sarah Connon and Jan Coker, who have organised our very successful social events.

We are grateful to the Upavon Parish Council for their continued financial support towards the Together Magazine and the maintenance of the Cemetery. We also thank the Upavon 500 Club for their donation.

Grateful thanks are due to the bell-ringing team from Milton Lilbourne and also to the trainee bell-ringers of Upavon, all under the excellent leadership of Chris Wardell. It is a great joy to hear church bells once again ringing out over Upavon village.

We have had no serious concerns with the fabric of the church building in the past year. There has been some minor dislodgment of plaster from the Chancel Arch, however, our builder assures us this is of no serious concern. The organ and clock have been serviced regularly and are in good order.

The Coffee Mornings held on the last Saturday of each month, continue to be well supported, thank you to all for that support that you have given.

The main fundraising events have all been well attended; the Church Fête in September, the St Timothy Foundation Lent Lunch, the Christmas Fair, the Plant sale, the Jazz concert in May, the Wiltshire Police Band and the Organ recital by Michael Fay. I hope you enjoyed these events, more to come in 2019.

We continue to have services each Sunday except when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month when a Team Service is held. The special services; Remembrance Sunday, All Souls, Rushall School end of term service, Christingle on Christmas Eve and the Carol Service were all enjoyed by a full Church. It was wonderful to welcome so many people to St Mary the Virgin during the year.

We have also had Weddings and Baptisms to celebrate, sadly we have also had a number of Funerals.

We consider that St Mary' s has had a successful year, due to the support of our clergy. Thanks go to our Team Rector, the Reverend Canon Deborah Larkey; our Team Vicars, the Reverends Jennifer Totney, and Mark Windsor; our Curate, the Reverend Dr Colin Heber-Percy; our Rural Dean the Reverend Canon Gerald Osborne and the Reverend Robert DeBerry. With their leadership and God's help and everyone's prayers, I am sure that St Mary' s will grow into a stronger Christian community in 2019.

Bill Bracher

Bill Coker

Churchwardens

It has been my privilege and honour to have served as Churchwarden of St Mary the Virgin Church for the last 15 years. As I am standing down, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over these years. I shall miss this role, but I shall still be involved in other ways. I am leaving it in the very capable hands of Bill Coker, and hope that you will give him the support that you have given me.

My best wishes to all at St Mary's and God bless you all.

Bill Bracher.