

ST MARY THE VIRGIN THORNBOROUGH REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We have had another constructive and progressive year with the completion of the Chancel restoration taking main stage. There was a wonderful service to celebrate on July 9th which was a village affair, with a glass of bubbly, bring and Share Picnic, Sport's Afternoon, Bar B Q, Band and even an Ice cream van....the weather couldn't have been better and it was wonderful to see young and old alike dancing together in the early evening sun.

We had two weddings, four baptisms and two funerals and the Festival services were well supported. The church remains an open church for quiet reflection and prayer, which villager and visitor appreciate.

The introduction of Messy Church in liaison with the Chapel has seen both families from Thornborough and beyond coming to sing songs, hear stories, play games, make craft, eat cake and laugh!

St Mary's continues to go host the school Harvest, and Christmas services and the Assemblies are a weekly highlight for the Associate Priest – where else can she don her ' multi pocketed story telling coat' and not feel out of place!

The Churchyard has never looked better with help from Shaun Osborne, Henry Goodger (reclaiming the wasteland), Derek Thomas and Garden Masters who are contracted to mow every few weeks. Thank you for the generous donation from the Parish Council of £1000 per year. This year Derek Thomas is standing down for a season, and therefore voluntary help will be needed to keep the far end of the graveyard mowed and strimmed. Could anyone help with this task for this season?

Ray oversaw, and with help from John Kenyon installed wooden framework and steel mesh to keep out the Jackdaws. They had damaged the workings of the clock which he had kindly repaired. Dave Bury also removed quantities of their nesting material.

We hosted a Music in Quiet Places again this year, and lent the church to the Adstock Singers for a Charity concert.

We had the quinquennial inspection, which was due in January but done a bit later due to the dreadful weather, so there is a list of jobs to address with the restoration of the tower roof, and the electrics being at the forefront. The interior of the Church IF the parishioners should desire it also needs to be considered further.

We have paid our full parish share again just under £8000. Thanks to Carol for her sterling accounts work and to Dave Wise for his auditing.

The porch sales continue to generate much needed funding as do the eggs and Jam sales that are left in the porch. Thanks to Jan Davies and Jill Bonner who are our mainstays. Also thanks to Jan for masterminding the flowers and flower rota , Martin Capel and again Jill Bonner for the main displays at important festivals.

Also to Jill Bury for her amazing contributions to most functions and services.

Post script -At the end of October Mark, Jimmy and I will be retiring from our post here in the Benefice and returning South. We will miss you more than you will ever know! Our last celebration with you will be at the Harvest Festival Weekend in October. Thank you for being so generous in your support to the church and to us. May you continue to know God's blessing on this very special Thornborough village community. Gussie

