

Report from the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parish Meeting May 2023

Our Rector, James Muggleton, retired last June and we have been delighted to welcome the Rev. Robin Stapleford who has taken over the Hindringham Group of Churches. Robin has made a significant impact our Church; the congregation has increased in contrast to many churches where numbers have declined and failed to pick up following the lifting of the restrictions and measures put in place for Covid-19. Further changes to the PCC include the appointment of Robin Norster-Files as Treasurer, taking over from Martin Proffitt who has served for many years. I have been elected as lay Vice-Chairman in the absence of a Churchwarden. Sandy Williams is assisting Judy Manuel, the PCC Secretary, and will be taking minutes of meetings.

With regard to the Church building the past year has been one of some frustration resulting from the lack of progress on repairs to the roof of the church tower. Unfortunately, the contractor who had quoted and accepted the work has now ceased to trade, and we are awaiting the appointment of another contractor. As you may expect, such skilled workmen are not easy to find, and often have long waiting lists for work. The Architect suggested that it would be timely to review the original specification (drawn up over 20 years ago!) to prioritise and check whether there should be any variations. This work is still in hand. If there are any changes to be made, the PCC will likely have to raise funds but until the review is completed we will not know what figures we are likely to be looking at. Repairs to the guttering and downpipes have led to significant improvements to the drainage of water away from the north door, and the east side of the porch.

The Friends of the Church have been a wonderful asset to the Church over the past year, keeping the Church Field tidy, keeping the churchyard trim and tidy, removing weeds etc. A few of the tombstones that were leaning very badly have been straightened. The tombstone on the right hand side of the path is to be repaired, having broken off, and the table tomb at the west end of the Church has been repaired. It has been decided that the Church field will be mown around the edge, enabling access to the seat in the north-east corner, and to the wild flower area, but leaving the centre of the field to remain unmown in line with "re-wilding" principles. The whole field will be mown in the late summer.

Dr Erica Bishop

Lay Vice-Chairman and Fabric Officer.