

# **Fairwarp Christ Church; Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

## **Church Wardens' Report 2018/19**

The formal duty of the church wardens at the APCM is limited to reporting on the state of the fabric of the church and the churchyard. However, notwithstanding this, it would be inappropriate for the wardens not to mention how fortunate and privileged we feel, as to our certain knowledge also does the whole congregation, to have the Rev. John Caperon as our priest-in-charge. He has brought a new spirit to both the whole community and to the church in Fairwarp and to have him as our very own without, as generally happens with small churches such as ours, as merely one of a group of parishes, we are extremely fortunate.

Included in the new attitude is an acknowledgement that the building is in need of work to ensure its long-term viability in the community of Fairwarp.

Following the Quinquennial Inspection in September 2017 and the resolution of the PCC the following month that we should attempt to undertake in 2018 all of the items of repair that the architect recommended we do in the 12 months following his report, it was inevitable that 2018 would be a busy year. Indeed, it has been busy but as a result, most of the recommended items have been attended to with the most significant of those being the cleaning by the Royal School of Needlework and the re-hanging of the Dossal further away from the East Wall than previously to prevent further damage by damp.

However 2018 was also the Centenary year of the end of the Great War and to mark that, new steps and railing have been erected to the War Memorial in the churchyard and the wooden Memorial Board that lists not only all those in the parish who were killed but also all those who served in the armed forces in that terrible war. These were both major community achievements and were much supported by both the congregation and the local community as evidenced by the large donations made towards the costs.

One of the most significant issues during the year was the failure of a large cast iron fitting in the central heating pipework that rendered the whole system unusable. Due to it being eighty years old and the possibility of another fitting deciding to similarly fail, the decision has been taken to replace the whole system and that should happen in August this year. Again the congregation and local community have been extremely generous.

The remaining large items of work to the church are the repointing of the stonework including the tower and the repair of many of the stained-glass window. The former should be completed in 2019 but the repair of the windows appears to have now become dependent upon finding a suitably qualified expert with time available in their schedule to carry out the work.

The wardens in particular wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank John Hunt for taking the lead over the past year in so many of the works undertaken.

Thanks to the attention of the Fairwarp Community Society, the condition of the churchyard continues to improve, and we are extremely grateful to the 20 to 30 villagers who, twice a year, organize a Saturday morning clear-up. In addition to this, work is in the course of being planned, subject to diocesan approval, to clear the north east corner of the churchyard and to landscape it so that it is suitable for new graves. Without this work the churchyard will soon be too full to receive any more burials.

April 2019

Caroline Shaw & Alan Hooper

Churchwardens, Christ Church, Fairwarp.