

Churchwardens Report

The year 2019 was an interesting year in many ways. We started the year still in interregnum, and working with our Archdeacon to keep our Parish Profile up to date and relevant. Fortunately for us, we were blessed to have the services of Fr Frank Smith who had agreed to take on the spiritual needs of our parish during the interregnum. His help and ministry enabled us to continue our worship without interruption, and we owe Fr Frank a huge debt of gratitude. We then reached the last Annual Meeting when Philip Overman decided to call it a day as Churchwarden after 7 years in the role and a number before that as our treasurer. Again we owe Philip a huge vote of thanks for all he did for Holy Trinity Church. His wise council, knowledge and hard work were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Early in the year saw Fr Chris Giles seconded to us from St Augustine's, and although he was with us for a fairly short time only, the impression he made and the impact he had on the life of our parish was large. He was very soon 'one of us' and it was a joy to have him lead us.

The most significant events of the year of course were the appointment of Fr Reid Humble to be Priest in Charge, and his installation and licensing in September in front of a full church of parishioners and many of the great and good from Southchurch and the wider town. The welcome to Fr Reid and to his wife Charlotte continued following the service, switching to the hall where refreshments of all kinds awaited and we are grateful to all who helped to make that evening such a success.

On more mundane matters, we are pleased to report that the fabric and internal decoration of our church remains in good condition, with only minor repairs and decorating having been needed. The church hall is still a work in progress, but is generally still sound, although we have had a few problems with leaking roofs and the like, fortunately now resolved. We have been well served during the year by Unpaid Work Party's supplied by the Community Payback Organisation, and even a cursory look around the churchyard shows just how much work has been done. This work continues and has expanded into the Church Hall garden where the useable lawn area has been increased significantly. Hopefully we might put that to good use during the months to come.

Les Harrod and Peter Yates