Church Report for Parish Council 2022/3

Over the last year the church has started to recover after the Covid pandemic. As with all churches, attendances have been hit and fewer weddings and funerals are being held in church although interment of ashes is still requested.

A quinquennial examination of the church fabric done this year has revealed some structural repairs required, some of which we hope to do this year. These include replacing some shingles to the tower roof and repairing some cement to an external wall.

At Haughton a new gate into the churchyard has been installed. We are grateful to Mr David Edwards for his maintenance of the grounds at Haughton. There has been a spate of requests for reservations of burial plots at Haughton, but the PCC has decided that such requests will not be allowed.¶

This year we said Goodbye to Gerald Lindner, our organist for almost 40 years. He has been a great support over the years, playing a variety of hymns and music and helping to keep the organ in good repair. We currently have several organists whom we can call upon to play the organ each Sunday, and there is a rota arranged for the coming months.

The church is grateful to all who support the church and come to the Lent Lunch and harvest supper. Following the latter a harvest auction was held in the Punch Bowl by kind permission of the landlord Mr Emmanuel de Souza . Through the generosity of all those present, £150 was raised which was sent to the Oswestry Food bank.

We held a Christingle Service just before Christmas, which we have not held for a couple of years due to COVID. Small numbers attended and we are relooking at this for this year and whether it should be held earlier in December to encourage a larger attendance.

The church has had a lot of interaction with the school this year. A grant of £2000 was made to the school for whatever the school felt was needed. In addition competitions with cash prizes were organised in relation to the Platinum Jubilee, Christmas and the recent Coronation. The school children showed great industriousness and diligence in what they produced. The prizes were awarded at special services held at the church for the school. In the course of these services pupils read out some of their prize work and performed songs. All of these services were greatly enjoyed, and thanks are due to the Headteacher and to the school staff for their hard work. We would also like to thank the judges that were involved for their time in reviewing the children’s work.