

ST MARY THE VIRGIN

THEYDON BOIS

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT FOR 2023

The churchyard railings reached the boundary with the former College of Preceptors, just a few sections are needed to finish off the side of the car park entrance.

All the routine servicing of the boilers, fire extinguishers, electrical appliances and the church clock has been carried out; no issues were found. We should like to thank Russ Hammond for regularly adjusting the church clock. Mariyana Zhecheva continues to clean the church and the parish centre to a high standard.

The bespoke font bowl was delivered in April and has been used for several baptisms.

Roof repairs were completed following the theft of lead. Internal redecoration of the church and parish centre was carried out where there had been water damage due to the missing lead. The cost of repairs and redecoration was covered by our insurance policy and the church paid to have the rest of the choir vestry and parish centre entrance lobby to be repainted to match at the same time.

We received our Quinquennial Report from Donald Insall Associates. No major problems were identified, but quite a few areas of external stonework require attention in the medium term. We also received the electrical inspection report which mainly highlighted upgrades needed due to changes in legislation. Competitive quotes are being obtained for stonework and electrical work.

A faculty application has been submitted for new, glass, flower shelves in the church to replace the existing melamine faced shelves which are showing their age. Sue Gibbs, one of our flower arrangers, took on the lengthy task of agreeing the design of the shelves with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and we are very grateful for her efforts.

We were pleased to welcome Karen Kendall and Sam Spencer to the sidesperson team and were saddened by the death of David Harmsworth who helped with the 8am services. We should like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year; especially Carole Fenton, Sarah Rochester, and Liz Hannibal who has become a Deputy Churchwarden, having stepped down after two years as Churchwarden.

We also thank Rev John and Rev Carol for all that they do for all of us at St Mary's.

Mary Gill and Andrew Crook,