

## REPORT FROM PADBURY PCC

Late in 2013, we learned that the wall abutting the entrance to the car park was in danger of collapse. Having obtained the necessary permissions, we asked Mick Weatherspoon to take down the dangerous sections that autumn. In the spring of 2014, he started the reconstruction but concluded that the wall would have to come down completely and required new foundations. This work was completed during the summer, with a stupendous amount of voluntary help from David Rasmussen. The finished article is a credit to them both, structurally and aesthetically.

Our team of Neil Gibbard, Roger Plant, Chris James, Ken Roberts, John Wrigley, and David Rasmussen continued to keep the churchyard in an exemplary state of good order. Our thanks are due to all of them for their help. The PCC acknowledges with thanks, the recent receipt of £500 from the Parish Council, towards the cost of maintaining the church yard.

Clergy go into Padbury School regularly and the Footsteps after-school club is enjoyed by many. A Messy Church at school was held in the autumn term, more will follow. The school has been granted Voluntary Aided status from September 2015

Our finances are a continual worry. As ever, we met our Parish Share commitment to the diocese in full. This is the contribution we make to the diocese towards the stipend and housing costs of the vicar. This year it will top £14000.

As usual, we have run various fund raising events, among which the Open Gardens weekend and the Lamb Lunch remain popular and many people enjoyed a convivial evening wine tasting last autumn.

Service numbers are slowly increasing, however we need to connect with our families more. So we are looking at how we include them. Cafe Sundae remains popular and we are looking at its continued development. An evening group called vagabonds has started and meets once a month in the pub to discuss topical, ethical and moral issues and has had a good response.

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a special fund of £15m to help Listed Places of Worship repair leaky roofs and gutterings, especially where there is water ingress. As our last quinquennial inspection itemised necessary repairs to our roof, we immediately arranged for an architect's inspection, with a view to submitting an application for a grant of just over £50,000, before the cut-off date of 30 Jan 2015. This was duly submitted and we are delighted to have been awarded the full amount requested.

The Bucks Fine Arts society asked if they could undertake a two year project of recording, researching and photographing everything in the church in great detail. Work started in September. The end product will be a Coffee Table book, of which only seven will be produced. They are undertaking this work entirely voluntarily and the cost of the books will be borne by the society.

Weekly coffee events, were started in the summer, using alternately the church and the pavilion at Springfields. The latter proved to be unsuitable for various reasons and we stopped using that venue. But the events have not successfully answered the original intention which was to provide a social outlet for residents, particularly the lonely or isolated.

The bible study group continues to be well attended and always welcomes newcomers, who are interested to learn how the bible relates to life today. This year we have continued studying Matthew's Gospel, looked at the life of the Apostle Peter and are now reading the letters of Peter and Jude.