

St Andrew's Church, Naunton

Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for the period 25th April 2018 to 24th April 2019

Since the last Parochial Church Meeting there have been four formal meetings of the Parochial Church Council. The members during the period were Rev Canon Katrina Scott, Chairman, David Renney, Vice Chairman and ex officio member because of his position as churchwarden, Annabelle Barton, Sophie Brett, Rev Sue Cox, Michael Cronk, Jen Houlden, Graham Hunter, Julia Law, Joan Mitchell, Jane Pickup, Judi Russell (until 2nd February 2019), Barbara Steiner, Bob Steiner and Diana Woolley. Out of these fifteen people, five succeeded in attending all four meetings, as did Rosemary Parker, Honorary Treasurer, who for technical reasons is not an official PCC member, while two others attended three.

Once again the year has included a Spirit of Naunton Service (held in The Black Horse), a Harvest Festival Service, a Remembrance Day Service, a Carol Service, a midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve and an Easter Holy Communion service, all of which were very well-attended. There was also a pre-Christmas crib service and a Good Friday family gathering during which as well as a short service, the children created an Easter garden and made various Easter themed items such as crosses and donkeys before finally joining in an Easter Egg hunt around the churchyard. Wednesday morning Prayers Services have also continued although sadly they have not been very well attended.

In addition to church services, St Andrew's has continued to host the weekly coffee shop, monthly (except for August) rural cinema showings and Naunton Music concerts. Thanks are due to Bob and Barbara Steiner and their bands of helpers for the work done to organise and run these events which all contribute towards church funds. There have also been Mustard Seeds, which follow Wednesday Prayers and are gatherings for mothers with babies and toddlers which Rosemary Parker has run with helpers. Thanks are due to Rosemary for keeping this going.

With the Village Hall closed for renovation for almost half of the period under review, there was little fund-raising but thanks to the organisation of Jane Pickup there was another of Dr Paul Roberts' fascinating talks, this time on another aspect of Pompeii on which Paul is such an expert, which happily raised over £2,000. Additionally, because the simple Ploughman's lunch held after Harvest Festival in 2017 had been successful, although the Village Hall had reopened, the same arrangements were made this year but it seems that some regretted the lack of a sit down lunch as used to be organised in the Village Hall by the Social Committee and so this simple lunch is unlikely to be repeated.

There is one special matter which I should like to mention. 2018 was, of course, the centenary anniversary of the end of World War One and so St Andrew's decided to participate in the nationwide "There but not There" scheme which meant that in the weeks before Remembrance Sunday there appeared around the village thirteen figures of Great War soldiers some in the form of silhouettes some transparent. They were very moving reminders of the anniversary and thanks are due to Nikki and Steve Shergold who made the figures and to those who funded the cost of their production.

Diana Woolley
Secretary
21st April 2019