

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT 2017

We are pleased to report that our village church is continuing to play an important role in Corston.

The themed family services thanks to Daile are very popular and continue to increase attendance. The Pet service, Time to Remember and Plough Services were very well received. As were the Christmas services especially the Christingle where refreshments were served while everyone enjoyed making their own Christingles, before a special service of celebration and carols.

We were invited this year to hold our Harvest service at Corston Fields farm, this proved to be a great success! Farmers and their families with the congregation joined in to bless the Harvest and sing harvest hymns accompanied by our music group The North Aislars. A ploughmans lunch with cider was enjoyed by everyone afterwards. A Drone film was shown of our local farms at harvest which was also very special.

An impromptu service held after The Country Fair in the playing field was a success showing how Daile can bring the love of God out to the whole community.

A lot has happened this year in the church. We were so pleased to obtain the lottery grant awarded to All Saints for a refit of our kitchenette and hospitality area. We would like to thank everyone who supported our application.

The kitchenette has been completed new units, lighting, new boiler, shelving and painted. Thanks to everyone involved.

Extra storage has been made by converting the back pews enabling us to make a childrens area in the North Aisle and also a peaceful Prayer corner used by congregation and visitors alike.

In July weather contributed to a record number of people coming to Corston Open Gardens. Profits of which were shared between the village hall and the church. Thanks to Sue and Jenny for all their hard work. We used the money to purchase some much needed pew cushions for our North aisle.

A Sunday afternoon with Miss Jane Austen was held in a beautifully decorated church. The performance of readings from Jane's novels and letters, wonderful singing followed by tea and a special evensong was enjoyed by everyone.

We are very grateful to the Country Fair committee for organising the Country fair again this year and would like to thank them for our share of the profits. This year it was used for the running costs of the church. Thank you everyone involved for all their hard work.

A very Special 100 years on celebration of our bells was held on Saturday 23rd September. The current bells were given by the parents of Fritz Bartelt in his memory in 1917. On his birthday every year the bells are rung in his memory. This being a very special year we were joined by members of his family and visiting bellringers plus a constant stream of people to enjoy an exhibition of bells and tea. This was followed by a service of celebration led by Daile and Rev. Mark Jackson the Master of Bath & Wells Diocesan association of Change ringers. The money raised was put towards the cleaning of the beautiful Bartelt window plus money raised by additional fund raising events. Thank you to everyone involved.

It was with great regret we record the death of Jean Crowther who was a pillar of strength and support to everyone in the church and the village. She is greatly missed by us all. A great lady and an inspiration to everyone.

Christmas day at All Saints this year was a memorable occasion. Anthony Acton retired as our Lay reader. The church was overflowing with well wishers and a presentation was made to him and Liz for all the hard work they have done over the years.

We as churchwardens would like to thank all who contribute to the life of All Saints, to Daile our Rector, those on the PCC, to Judith, Andrew and team in the runnings of the monthly markets. Jean Seymour and team for the monthly soup and pudding lunches. To the CCPT who supports our church building and is backing our Porch project. For all who do jobs around the church and churchyard. We cannot mention everyone by name, but be assured the jobs you do don't go unnoticed.

Our church this year has been used for Country Fair, History group meetings as well as many social events.

We would like to welcome everyone to our church, not just for services but to use our church and facilities for meetings, charity events etc.

Please contact Daile, Diane or Philippa. We would like to welcome everyone!

Diane Phillips

Philippa Parfrey

Churchwardens