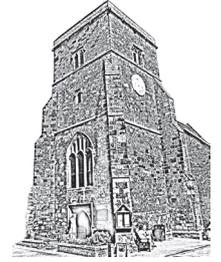
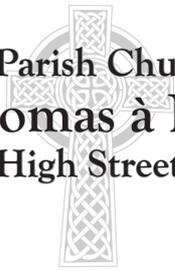


The Parish Church of
St Thomas à Becket
Cliffe High Street, Lewes



Churchwarden's Report 2019

Reflection on the year

I was once again privileged to be elected as your Churchwarden and was officially admitted to the office by Canon Judith our Rural Dean.

Thanks to the continuing hard work put in by so many, week in week out, the church always looks clean and tidy to provide a welcoming atmosphere to the many visitors we have in addition to our regular Sunday congregation. I am indebted to everyone who works tirelessly with flower arranging, polishing, dusting and general cleaning. This would not be possible without the efforts of Keith our cleaner who undertakes much of the work that the rest of us just cannot manage.

We are also all indebted to dear Brother George's ministry and dedication to St Thomas, for his daily celebration of the Eucharist and continual prayerful support, as well as his committed pastoral work.

If it were not for the dedication and professionalism of our PCC members and church officers (notably our Secretary and Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer and Electoral Roll Officer) things would not run as well as they do, and I pay enormous thanks for all the support I receive from so many quarters.

The Log Book and Terrier is up to date. The organ continues to work well and has been regularly serviced. Fire equipment has been serviced and electrical equipment (PAT) tested. We didn't have the Archdeacon's Visitation as expected. Our ancient clock has been professionally maintained by specialists Thwaites and Read, and continues to work well thanks to Br George's daily care. A new Fire Risk Assessment is due next year, and we need to ensure our risk assessments are up to date.

We all endured many weeks of disruption while renovations and re-decoration was undertaken and the clergy had to suffer scaffolding in the sanctuary while our usual entrance was also disrupted by the building work. Unfortunately, the works revealed an issue with pointing on the tower and some remedial work was able to be undertaken until the December weather forced the workmen to retreat. We need to address this issue again when the weather improves.

Looking forward to next year

We enter an interregnum from 1st April when Canon Richard retires. This is bound to lead to extra pressures but we can expect support from several quarters. Canon Judith, as Rural Dean, will oversee the benefice until a new Rector is appointed. Projects (such as the chancel handrail) are automatically 'on hold' during a vacancy and we therefore won't see any progress with anything other than emergency works.

Electoral Roll numbers are falling and we will need to re-visit our Mission Action Plan, as a PCC, to look at ways of attracting new members to the church. This is a task we will need to approach with our new Rector.

Every blessing,

Trevor Butler
Churchwarden