

Kilve Annual Parish Meeting

April 17th 2014

Kilve PCC St Mary the Virgin, Kilve with Kilton & Lilstock

This year, it has been the 'Oil Saga' that has occupied the concerns and worries of the PCC: this topic seems very detached from a small rural church and its ministry, but we are responsible for a public building and as such have had to follow the protocol laid down by the contamination consultants RAW. However after much washing, flushing, pumping and venting we can now report that during December 2013 we were advised that the remaining oil vapours (that would be present for some considerable time) posed no hazard to human health and no further work was necessary. Most of the costs have been reimbursed by the insurers and so as soon as the consultants publish their final report and the corresponding faculty completed, this matter can then be closed

Onto more appropriate matters it was good to see our church full on several occasions this year, the Song's of Praise during the Flower Festival, 2 weddings with a mix of kilts and saris and also our Christmas Morning Eucharist; also sadly 2 services of Thanksgiving for losses in our community.

Church membership is always a concern, and this year our figures show a reduction of one, but our electoral roll remains in the mid 30s. This year at our APCM Roger Cuff stepped down as Churchwarden with Frances Mayor being elected as warden for 2014/15

Although our finances are viable our fund raising events last year provided 50% of our income, this increase was due to the Flower Festival held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, and despite not having the field adjacent to the church for the refreshment tent an alternative venue was provided by Mr & Mrs Dawes of the Chantry This event, along with our other calendar of fund raising events was financially successful, enjoyable and rich in fellowship and community spirit: but also hard work for the PCC and their helpers.

The rota of services has remained the same, other than combined Benefice Services Sundays, and this has been particularly encouraging as the ministry team is still a member short, because the house for duty vacancy has not yet been filled. Our thanks go out to the Rector and her team for leading us in worship Sunday by Sunday. On Benefice matters this year has been particularly frustrating as our printer and its servicing contract has ceased to work, creating many problems. However the Benefice now has a new printer and contract, so the operational part of this problem is now resolved but correspondence relating to the old contract is still proving to be an issue

Each year we give thanks to all those in our community who help us, and this year is no different, whether it be cleaning, flower arranging, grass cutting, delivering magazines, helping at our functions, sanctuary maintenance or providing us with joyful music week by week. This year to say 'thank-you' in a more tangible way, we invited this army of helpers to a glass (or two) of wine and nibbles in the Village Hall to formally deliver our thanks; an act that was very much appreciated by all.

So to conclude the churchwardens and PCC would like to express our thanks to our community for all the support that St Mary's receives

Arthur Williams
Churchwarden