

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
THEYDON BOIS
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT FOR 2022

The churchyard railings project continued in 2022, heading towards the boundary with the former College of Preceptors. The railings make the churchyard boundary visible from The Hoppit and are a great improvement.

We appointed a professional cleaner, Mariyana Zhecheva, to undertake cleaning of the church and parish centre once a fortnight. Mariyana has been cleaning the church hall for several years very satisfactorily. The new system has been working well, with just a quick vacuum of the carpets needed between cleans.

All the routine servicing of the boilers, fire extinguishers, electrical appliances and the church clock has been carried out; no issues were found. We should like to thank Russ Hammond for regularly adjusting the church clock.

The church organ pipes were dismantled and received a thorough clean over the summer, for the first time in a number of years.

A bespoke font bowl has been commissioned, delivery due in early 2023.

Unfortunately, we suffered the theft of lead from the church roof, probably during September. The theft was discovered after rainwater leaked down the wall between the church and the parish centre. Our builder, Paul Gunnell, put a tarpaulin in place as a temporary measure. Our insurance company agreed to cover repairs and we considered using an alternative material. However, following discussions with the Diocese, it was decided to replace the lead. Malcolm Eckton, a local roofer scheduled the work for early 2023.

We appointed a new architect, Sophie Douglas of Donald Insall Associates, to carry out our Quinquennial Inspection in January 2023. Our five yearly full electrical inspection is also scheduled for early 2023.

Refreshments after the 10.30am services resumed during the year, initially served outside. We have covered this between us so far but intend to re-introduce a rota of helpers as more people stay for tea and coffee.

Finally, we should like to thank the many people who have supported us during the year; Carole Fenton, Diana Meteyard, Sarah Rochester, David Harmsworth, Pat Gill, all the sidespeople, and the volunteers who helped at the very busy Christingle services.

We should also like to thank Rev John and Rev Carol for their continued dedicated leadership as we returned to normal church life after the pandemic.

Mary Gill and Liz Hannibal, Churchwardens

