

St Margaret's, Chippenham

Annual Report 2017/8



Churchwardens' Report 2018

St Margaret's Church Chippenham

Churchyard walls

The west wall of the churchyard running by the pavement is in good condition.

The south wall is in generally good condition, and has had some repair recently, but is also likely to need more in the next few years. The north side of the Churchyard is bounded by wooden fencing constructed a few years ago and remains in good condition.

The east wall remains in substantial disrepair. It is still a sufficient of a barrier to prevent any access across it.

Gates

The small entrance gate needs replacing, and this will be done in the summer. The double gates are in good condition.

Exterior walls and buttresses

All are in an acceptable condition.

Roofs

The external roof and guttering are in generally good condition. There is some lead flashing that slightly came adrift, and this has been rectified. There is some cement filler in the roof of the chancel that has become dislodged, and needs repairing to prevent further leakage.

Internally, the north aisle roof has death watch beetle damage but the oak timbers are still large enough for this not to cause a problem. However, we are monitoring this to make sure it does not worsen. The south roof aisle also has bad death watch beetle and woodworm. Again, the timbers are large, and the problem has not deteriorated in the past few years.

Fuel tank

The fuel tank is in good condition.

Churchyard graves, grass and leaves

Kevin Pallant is responsible for the regular grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard. Together with the ongoing help from the parish council and the various villagers who maintain graves, hedges and monuments, the churchyard continues to be a credit to the village. The churchwardens would like to express their great thanks for everyone's contribution.

Tower

The tower is in good condition. We are currently adding to the swift boxes in the tower and hope to encourage swifts to nest in them.

Porch and doors

These remain in good condition.

Internal walls

The walls remain in generally in good condition.

Internal windows

All appear to be in reasonable condition, though there is a little bit of crumbling on the mullions. One of the lead panels in the Tharp Chapel has been broken and needs replacing.

Tharp Chapel

The Chapel remains in generally good condition.

Chancel

The floor of the Chancel, the Sanctuary and the area around the Tharp vault remain in good condition.

Vestry

The vestry remains in generally good condition. The plasterwork is also beginning to peel off on the east wall.

Pews and pew cleaning

The cleaning team system is running well. The bats are due to come out of hibernation shortly and this will once more provide a challenge to our excellent cleaning teams.

Heating

The heating system, although old, is working reliably. There is an oil leak which will be repaired in the summer.

Electrical System

The electrical system remains in satisfactory order.

Altar and lectern hangings

These are in basically good condition, although the white altar cloth needs some repairs in due course.

Flowers and church cleaners

There is a silent army of workers who without any fuss or fanfare just get on with it and make the Church look wonderful. This extends from the flowers to the brasses and the church itself. The churchwardens would like to express their great thanks for everyone's contribution.

Attendance

Average attendance during 2015/16 was about the same as in recent years. Our monthly family service is proving successful, and is attracting younger families with children. Once again St Margaret's had a huge attendance at the Christmas Carol Service of some 350 people. This service attracts peoples from far and wide, but the attendance figures do show that we succeed in getting a very high percentage of villagers into the Church.

Website

Our website has not been updated some years, and this is going to be addressed as part of our Strategy Plan in the coming year. St Margaret's is on Facebook and Twitter, and is an easy and effective route for us to let people know about our services and all our other activities, like our Christmas Market and MumsPlus.

Tower Captain's Report

We continue without a Tower Captain who can fulfil the role, but we hope to begin to rebuild the Bell Ringing Group into a regular and enthusiastic team of campanologists. One or two people have recently expressed interest in reviving bell ringing in the village, so hopefully something will come of this.

Balance in hand as of 1 January 2017

Lloyds	Current Account	£7,617.17
CCLA Deposit Fund	614052001D	£712.77
CCLA Deposit Fund	614052002D	£41,351.20

INCOME		£-
Gift Aid/tax reclaimed		
Collections (Gift Aided)		£8,797.40
Collections (Not Gift Aided)		£114.20
Regular donations		£4,064.00
Regular donations (Not Gift Aided)		£56.00
Parish Giving regular giving including giftaid		£600.00
Misc Donations (Gift Aided)		£25.00
Misc Donations (Not Gift Aided)		£95.00
Fundraising (excl. Xmas Market)		£1,517.00
Fundraising (Xmas Market)		£3,242.90
Fees		£1,778.00
Restoration specific		£500.00
TOTAL		£20,789.50

Income	£20,789.50
Carried Forward from 2015	£7,617.17
Total	£28,406.67

Chippenham Parochial Church Council Statement of Accounts Year Ending 31 December 2017

EXPENDITURE		
Heating/Lighting		£549.70
Insurance		£3,007.83
Parish Share		£11,716.11
Churchyard/Minor Repairs		£1,320.75
Services- eg Candles/Wafers		£158.10
Charity Donations		£75.00
Three Rivers Account		£1,920.00
Restoration/Building work		£-
TOTAL		£18,747.49

Balance in hand as of 31 December 2017		
Lloyds	Current Account	£7,404.85
CCLA Deposit Fund	614052001D	£713.82
CCLA Deposit Fund	614052002D	£41,412.51

Summary for Church Council meeting 5th March

Receipts

We current have 17 people regularly giving, only 3 of whom are registered through the Parish Giving Scheme. We have lost two significant regular contributions this year with an estimated total cost to regular income of about £100 a month. The Parish Giving Scheme brings in £100 but also an addition £25 because of the gift aid added within the month. The rest of the standing orders bring in about £300 a month of which no Gift Aid has been collected. It would be good to send out a new letter, asking people to regularly give, and give ask both existing and new givers to convert to the Parish Giving Scheme.

The Xmas market continued to be an absolute lifeline to our financial stability, and has helped compensate for our month outgoings being greater than our average monthly income. Average income is hard to predict, as it is much more when weddings and funerals help to bring in additional collection and the remittance we receive from the Three Rivers Groups for these events. The account can run low in the summer months, and another large regular fundraiser would help maintain cash flow. This year, unlike last, we have not had to use the CCLA account.

The Parish Council did give us a cheque for the grass cutting but this did not get banked until 2018, so will show on next year's accounts. However, in 2016 we did not get a donation and we should still apply this year, 2018, as well.

Expenditure

This year has seen a dramatic drop in expenditure, which has mainly been due to the delay of the new porch. As cash flow is **very** tight, may I advise those organizing any future porch expenditure that plenty of warning must be given of additional costs as the money needs transferring from the CCLA and this is not straight forward.

Our Parish Share amounts to our largest out going, followed by Insurance. However, we are due a small rebate from the Three Rivers Group for over payment, as agreed by Tony Page.

General matters

I have been trying for two years to convert the CCLA account into my name instead of Amanda Nunn's. They sent back the first attempt because the form was not complete. I need to chase them, as I have not heard anything since sending off the paperwork. I will speak to Amanda and get another form organised as I will with Lloyds.