

St Mary's, Chesterton

It is a privilege to report to the Parish Council as Churchwarden at St Mary's, Chesterton

We are deeply indebted to you for the support during the past year.

Your maintenance of the Churchyard continues to be a great help to us as well as making sure that it stays as a place of peace and quiet for the Village. There are changes happening in that we have designated a large area of the " meadow" to be left alone to encourage wild flowers and insects. Further, next month we will be using members of the Young Family service to plant bee and other insect friendly plants adjacent to the Tower. There are also plans to place swift boxes up on the tower. Later this year we hope to have two new sheds on the corner for storage.

The Church has a bronze award as an "Eco Building" and we are working towards a silver award.

We are still planning to re-furbish the church, but raising funds for this major project is not easy. Again, the support of the Parish Council is much appreciated, enabling us to divert as much as possible to the re-order. But not to be down-hearted, we have decided to at least re-decorate the interior to generally brighten the place up. Quotes are a bit higher than we expected but, God willing, we could see that happen during this year.

A recent 5 year report on the building indicated that "The interior of the church is well cared for and in good condition." A number of defects were noted, and work has begun to rectify those that we can afford to do. We are bit like the Red Queen in Alice in that we spend a lot of time keeping up with repairs of a 900 year old building before we even get to the bigger problems.

We hope that the Church remains an integral part of Village life. This is borne out by good attendance at special events such as Christmas, Easter, Remembrance, Carol Concerts etc.

We conclude by thanking the Parish Council again for their support and hope to be in partnership for many more years to come.

David Attwood

Churchwarden