

Church Warden's report 2023

It's been a year of contrasts for the Mission Community of St Margaret's. Sadly, we have said goodbye to the lovely Enid Hamadullah and the boundless energy which was Jennifer, our wonderful organist. But we have managed to return to a more normal format for services after the pandemic and we are very keen to welcome as many people as possible to St Margarets.

We now have a new look PCC, who are driving forward plans to get the church into shape. Jeannie, Mary and Julian have been great additions to the PCC, with lots of new ideas. We have also welcomed Phil (tower captain) onto the PCC, who has been instrumental, with his amazing bell ringers, in getting the treble bell well on it's way to being mended. We must also thank Christine for her continued hard work with the 100 club.

Thanks to Jeannie, Paul and their happy band of helpers we now have a lovely flagpole and a proud flag flying from the church tower, and plans are well in hand to get the yew trees in the church yard properly reshaped and trimmed. We have a few quotes to mend the tower roof, as the PCC have decided that they want a more permanent repair than the "patching up" that has happened in the past. The stone gateposts into the church yard have been repaired and rebuilt and we are waiting for the delivery of a wooden gatepost for the northern gate into the church yard. The issue of the boundary wall is still outstanding and discussions are continuing with the Parish Council. We are in the process of getting quotes for the repairs to the drainpipes on the northern side of the church.

*Completed this
am.*

We have long term plans to improve the facilities in the church, including an accessible toilet, and we are looking into the possibility of solar power in an effort to make St Margaret's a "green" church by stopping the use of oil for the heating and providing our own lighting.

Sadly, Chris Whitehead has decided to step down both as church warden and from the PCC in preparation for his to move to a more accessible location for someone who doesn't drive. He will be greatly missed. Therefore, we only have one church warden at the moment, but Phyllis has been elected as sidesman and several members of the PCC have stepped up to the challenge and are taking on various aspects of the Church warden's duties. During the next year we will need a new secretary for the PCC as Yvonne has informed us that this will be her last year in this post. Luckily Yvonne will continue as Treasurer.

We have run a number of very successful fund raising events and we must thank the Parish Council, the Hall Committee and all the residents of Stoodleigh for their continued support. We have some very interesting new ideas for events that should be happening in the next year.

We recently welcomed Tim Gorringer, a retired clergyman, to the Exe Valley Mission and we must thank Steph, Claire and their whole team for their continued hard work and support.