

Churchwarden's Report 2020.

2019/2020 has been an eventful twelve months which saw another year without a resident priest in Kempford. However, we were extraordinarily lucky in having the continued support from John Swanton and his team of roaming clergy who made sure that worship continued in more or less the same pattern throughout the year. We were also lucky enough to have the continued presence of the Reverend Nick Scott to lead us regularly in our worship up until the end of November last year. He also continues to lead our All Age Service, which is continuing to be a popular form of worship at our Church.

Now, however, we have good news to report. The Reverend Kim Brown has been appointed to lead the parishes of Kempford with Welford, Castle Eaton: Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton. She is due to be installed at Castle Eaton on 21st May this year. Kim has taken occasional services at Kempford over the course of this year, and we welcome her appointment and look forward to her ministry with us in the coming years.

Sadly, due to the Corona Virus, all Church services have been suspended, and all churches have been temporarily forced to close. However, Reverend John Swanton and his team have been performing online services every Sunday so far.

We have continued to support the local foodbank with donations, as well as sending small Christmas gifts to some of the elderly and isolated in the Parish. We have also given money to the primary school in Kempford to help local families in need, especially at Christmas and more recently to aid them in ensuring help for the needy families during the Corona Virus outbreak. We have also donated money towards the cost of some school trips.

This year, we have again implemented maintenance and repairs to both the Church in Kempford and also St Anne's Church in Welford.

At Kempford, we have installed a new platform in the clock tower to enable safe maintenance and winding of the clock. The Church and churchyard have had a really good spring clean, and a wooden crucifix has been purchased to be on display when the Church is open during the week.

At Whelford, we have been gifted a new silver chalice to be used at the Eucharist. A silver patten is on loan from Kempford to match. It has been proposed to install a small safe to keep these new items secure. A new bell rope has been installed, and the candlesticks have been restored. These are now looking rather fine. There are also plans in place to tidy up the churchyard when circumstances permit.

As always, we rely on a large number of volunteers to assist in the running of both churches, and I would like to offer my personal thanks to everyone who helps us keep worship alive in Kempford and Whelford, and to all those who help to keep our beautiful buildings and churchyards looking in tip top condition for all parishioners and visitors. I would also like to add my thanks to Margaret Wolfenden, who continues to make sure that in normal times,

the church at Kempsford is open during the day. Sadly now, some of our volunteers have for a variety of reasons decided to step down, and we do need more people to help us maintain the buildings and churchyards in good condition. Please do consider if you could spare even a small amount of time to help us; you would be very welcome! I would also like to say 'Thank You' to all members of the PCC who all have a role to play in keeping our Parish in good shape, and who have made it possible to continue the connections between Church and the local communities.

Finally, I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to Keith Howlett for all of the help and advice that he has given to me over the course of this year. It has been wonderful to be able to share the job of looking after our lovely Churches and grounds!

Thank you.

Elizabeth Emberson.