

View from the pew

Colin Bird

I trust you had the opportunity during this almost unprecedented period of good weather to get a decent break. As I write this, on the hottest day for over 100 years, the weather is at last forecast to return to normal!

By the time you read this, we should be half way through the scheduled works to repair the Vestry roof. We will know how bad it actually is when the roof has been stripped off. The Easter Appeal raised £18,215 and presently the overall cost is estimated at around £24,000 but we won't get a final figure until we can see what is under the roof covering. Inevitably this will put a strain on the Fabric Fund, especially with the Quinquennial coming up in October.

In the meantime, the Vestry is out of bounds and we are using the meeting room as a temporary Vicar's Vestry. We realise that this is inconvenient for those who need to get into the church regularly and for groups meeting in church, but hopefully, for groups, the new space on the South side at the back of church can be a short term substitute, or the Memorial Chapel if not.

We have just had the radiators at the rear of the North Aisle moved back to the Meeting Room wall. This will enable us to remove the pews on that side, under a temporary licence, so that the pews on both sides of the church will be the same. We will be applying for a faculty to make the current pew arrangement on the South side permanent.

On the social side, in September we had a very successful BBQ with 60 people attending. Thanks to all who worked to make this a success.

We also had a very successful Coffee Morning and Tower Opening, combined with the Bike and Hike event for the Historic Churches Trust. Thanks again to all involved. It is always good to support the Bike and Hike, enabling a large number of visitors to

come into church and receive our renowned hospitality.

Our Harvest Supper is on 1st October, so hopefully we will have had a great time as this magazine becomes available.

The Harvest Festival Service is a chance for us generously to help the Foodbank. It has dealt with an increased demand on its stock recently and needs to replenish its shelves. A current list of needs is opposite page eight of this magazine. The cash collection will, once again, go to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, this year supporting WaterAid.

Janet O is looking for volunteers to help tidy up the flower beds and churchyard. Please help if you can and sign up on the board at the back of Church.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the members of our Working Party who toil away on our behalf, carrying out important work as varied as resealing the hall floor, cutting the hedges and dealing with rain water leaks on the South side.

Yours in faith, Colin

