

St Michael & All Angels

Shalbourne



**ANNUAL REPORT
2012-13**

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Shalbourne

The MINUTES of the Easter Vestry and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the Church on Tuesday 27th March 2012 at 7.30pm.

There were 15 people present

Canon Stephen Trapnell welcomed those present in the name of the Rural Dean, the Revd Mary Edwards, who sent her apologies. Stephen therefore chaired the Easter Vestry.

1. **Scripture Reading and Prayer.** There was a reading from Colossians 3:12-17. (GNB), and prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Dr Ian Dalziel, Anthony Tabor, Martin & Ruth Truran, & Bill Withers.
3. **Minutes of the last APCM.** (07.04.2011). Duly agreed and signed.
4. **Election of Church Wardens (2)** Rich Barker and Barb Grisedale were elected.

Rich Barker chaired the APCM from this point.

5. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives.** (2) Jonny Buxton was proposed and elected.
6. **Election of PCC Members (7).** Anne Banks, Carolyn Bartholomew, Andrew Blake, Ian Dalziel, Charles Scott, Anthony Tabor, and Bill Withers were elected *en bloc*.
7. **Churchwardens Report.** The Report spoke of the changed situation that exists regarding the shortage of clergy and an interrupted pattern of services. This in turn has led to more lay-led services, and has shown the need for the churchwardens to share their responsibilities with those willing to help. Rich welcomed Barb as a fellow churchwarden.
8. **PCC Secretary's Report.** The appointment of the new Team Rector was mentioned; also the PCC's day of reflection with Archdeacon Alan Jeans, which has led to a greater involvement with the community.
9. **The Electoral Roll Report.** The present figure is 73 names.
10. **The Finance Report.** Alistair Cameron presented the Accounts, which have been very nobly examined by Nick Badman. Alistair and Nick spent a lot of time preparing a statement, and were duly thanked. Alistair is standing down as Treasurer, and Larry Sargent (also present) has graciously agreed to take over the books. The matter of Bagshot chapel is to be considered at future PCC meetings.
11. **Parish Magazine Report.** Ron Campbell was thanked for his excellent work during the past year, and has indicated that he wishes to stand down after the end of this year. A magazine to be proud of!
12. **Shalbourne CE Primary School Report.** In a full report, Jenni Blake commended the staff for an outstanding church school, and said that there were at present 40 children on roll.
13. **Churchyard Report.** Jonny Buxton is already involved with the setting up of a Link Scheme in the village, and he has also become the parish representative on the Deanery Synod, and so he feels that the time has come to hand over the care of the churchyard.

14. **The Fabric Report.** Rich Barker pointed out the distinction between maintenance and improvements: we need to put something like £8,000 a year aside for maintenance, and thanked Richard Banks for his oversight of the improved heating, the insulation of the porch, the new seat cushions, the church sign and the fingerpost at the end of the drive. Richard has worked tirelessly on these projects and is standing down as chairman of the Fabric Committee. The Meeting agreed that the cost of replacing the churchyard gates in memory of Susan Rogaly should be paid for with contributions by members of the Rogaly family to the PCC using Gift Aid. As a large sum of money has been spent during the year on improvements, it was suggested that people should be asked to review their Standing Orders.
15. **The Tower Report** The Bells are in good working order, and there is a loyal band of ringers. The aim is to ring for at least one Sunday a month. The Guild of Bellringers has requested all towers to ring for St George's Day, the Queen's Jubilee and the opening of the Olympic Games.
16. **The Shalbourne Website.** Despite some initial difficulties, the Shalbourne website is now linked to the Savernake Team site, and there is a separate page for church events. The website is of great benefit to the whole community, and Andrew Blake was thanked for all his endeavours. His only disappointment is that so few people use it. (see www.shalbourne.org)
17. **Any other business.** The controversy surrounding the church sign at the end of the drive was raised. Rich explained that those who oppose the appearance of the sign are comparatively few; however, the sign has been lowered by 12 inches, and the bottom panel has been removed temporarily. There followed a lot of discussion, and it became clear that the essential purpose of the sign was to indicate the church's presence, to show the way to it, and to publish the times of the services. It is this last point that needs to be addressed. Meanwhile, we await the recommendations of the Diocesan Advisory Committee before taking further action.

Rich ended by thanking Anthony Tabor, Alistair Cameron, and Richard Banks for their significant contributions to the life of the church during the past year: we all owe them a deep debt of gratitude as they relinquish their roles.
18. **Closing Prayer.** Stephen closed the meeting with a prayer at 9.15pm; and all were invited to stay for Wine and Cheese in the side aisle. With snacks beautifully prepared and provided by Anne Banks, and cheeses by Charles Scott - the Annual Meeting ended on a cheerful note soon after 10.00pm.

S.T.

Rector's Report for the APCM of Shalbourne and Bagshot Parish 2012/13

I propose to address two main areas within the context of this report. Firstly a general report on the state of the Savernake Team. Secondly a few comments specific to Shalbourne Parish.

The appointment of new stipendiary clergy has been an opportunity not only for the clergy, but also for the laity to develop their own ministry and look at a restructuring of the team. The appointment of myself as Team Rector in July, followed by Daile's appointment in January has produced a very short honeymoon period for either of us. None of the options proposed in February 2010 have been adopted by the team. The expectation that only two stipends would be available led to planning on that basis. The team is now effectively working with a more fluid structure with each of two areas being under the pastoral care of one stipend and one self-supporting minister (SSM). During the vacancies, a large proportion of the running of the team had defaulted to Church Wardens, laity and SSMs under the heroic leadership of Mary Edwards. For the first six months of my office, I found myself without a period of observation which would be the normal way of proceeding. The shift of Debbie Brown's focus to team has meant that despite the workload, systems are getting into place. The aim is to reduce workload and thus increase our pastoral effectiveness. We have a unified approach to statutory fees and are moving forward on optional fees. Ministry focus is at present split into 'Worship and Liturgy' and 'Community and Pastoral'. Unified forms and structures for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are being drafted by Daile.

These two periods, one of coping with a shortage of clergy and the second coping with rapid change, could not have happened without the generous and charitable support of the people of God. I am not one to give great lists of names, as I always feel it is unfair to those who for one reason or another get missed. At times, your own community leaders have had a lot to contend with, and they have done this with exceptional charity.

We are re-scheduling services trying to make them, where possible, convenient to the people of God rather than the clergy. We are developing a pastoral overview and tackling issues around visiting. The structure of the Team has developed and allows us to go on to appoint a third person with specific briefs, including helping people to develop the appropriate skill sets for worship and pastoral care. By creating interest groups we seek to allow all to grow in the service of the gospel and remove dependence from a few overworked individuals.

Shalbourne has had much more to contend with than usual. The theft of lead, the poor weather for the Motor Show, negotiations about the closure of Bagshot and services, getting used to the new Rector, sad losses in the community and resignations from the PCC have revealed the strong a supportive nature of this community. It is a community that has consistently shown itself capable of solving the problems of the present and keeping open their eyes to the future. You all deserve considerable praise for the fantastic work you do and the ability to handle difficulties with terrific good grace. At this stage you provide a lead for both your cluster and the team. My particular hope is that you continue your initiatives with other parishes and in particular that your work with children and young families will provide a model for the rest of the team.

I would like to repeat what I find most impressive about you is your ability not only to deal with your own problems, but also to raise your eyes beyond in a spirit of committed Christian charity.

The Churchwardens' Report

The last year has been a busy one and we have been very fortunate that during her short time living in our community Barb Grisdale has immersed herself in church matters as the second Churchwarden. Her contribution has been immense and her commonsense approach to all matters has been very refreshing. She will be very badly missed and we all wish her well as she moves away to divide her time between Hungerford and Canada.

The arrival of the new Team Rector, Michael McHugh, was a very welcome event and his re-organisation of the Savernake Team is starting to take effect. Over the next year across all of the parishes there will be some changes to services and service times and for Shalbourne there will be no exception. For us at Shalbourne there will be great emphasis placed on the Family Service and a single member of the Clergy Team will be assigned to that service to ensure continuity. As an aspiration we would like to build on that service and the associated Children's Club run so expertly by Anthony Tabor. The challenge will be to ensure inclusion and relevance for all children especially as they grow and mature in life and in their faith. Indeed some of our children are maturing alarmingly quickly and it only seems like yesterday that they were sitting on the Children's Club rug partaking as toddlers. Providing for everybody is also vital and we shall, of course, continue to provide our usual Holy Communion and Matins services. With the Team re-organisation there is an aspiration for more collaboration, as *missions* across the team rather than just at parish or cluster level. The first of these was held in the summer of 2012 with the childrens' Holiday Clubs. For a cross-team mission this was a promising start and perhaps the most evident benefit was the link that was generated between the helpers in different parishes. I hope that as the new team matures, we will be able to build on this and increase the involvement of the lay community as a mission-shaped church which will better serve that community.

There have been some challenges over the past year and a prominent legacy is our financial position following the theft of the roof lead and, owing to the poor weather, the reduced profit generated by the car show. The theft was very vexing and the repairs have been complicated but we are nearly there. Let's hope we don't have to do that again. Into the next year, there is also plenty to look forward to but I wish to end the report by thanking all of the people who so generously give their valuable time to help. The good works of the Flower Angels, coffee-makers, church cleaners, fund-raisers, sidesmen and PCC members are really so much appreciated. We wish Tracy Sant all the very best as she stands down from her truly outstanding work as lead Flower Angel and commit our support to Donna Scott who, very graciously, has taken over the reigns. The magazine is in great shape and we wish Ron Campbell all the best for a well earned rest as he stands down. Our thanks go to Elizabeth Shaw-Hardy as she already works to move the magazine from strength to strength. Finally I wish to recognise the immense contribution made by our outgoing PCC Secretary, Stephen Trapnell. We wish him well as he stands down after 9 years and we shall all badly miss his wisdom and good humour. He has, however, assured me that he will still be open for business to receive daft questions from perplexed churchwardens. For that I am truly grateful.

Rich Barker

The PCC Secretary's Report for 2012.

The Shalbourne PCC is composed of the Team Rector and twelve members, two of whom are co-opted: the PCC has met on six occasions during the past year, and in addition one extraordinary meeting took place in September.

Looking back over the year, there has been a mixture of good and bad - plus a lot that managed to contain elements of each. The good was to be seen in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations last June, and the arrival of the new Team Rector in July; and the bad was brought sharply into focus with the theft of lead from the church roof in August. Each of these matters were major subjects of discussion in the PCC.

Often, those matters which contain elements of both good and bad raise some of the hardest issues: the future of Bagshot Chapel was no exception. Appearing on the Agenda of almost every meeting, the decision to begin the process of closure was taken, and the appropriate procedure for this is still on-going.

One piece of good news that came our way, was the discovery that the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral are responsible for almost all of the cost of repairs to our chancel: the bad news came when the work carried out on the east window was deemed to be a matter of maintenance rather than renovation or repair. The PCC also planned for the annual Classic Car Show: that too was also a mixture of good and bad - or rather, bad and good. The disappointment was that it rained all day: the reprieve came when we were surprised by the amount of money that was raised, just the same.

The PCC arranged and prepared for the Church's Quinquennial Inspection: bad news - some repairs and renewals were put on the list; the good news was that there was no major expense required in the immediate future. In addition, two cheerful matters came up for discussion during the course of the year, and both have been made a successful start: the Charity Matching Fund and the Link Scheme for transport based on Great Bedwyn.

Finally, as Honorary PCC Secretary for the past 9 years, I feel it is now time to stand down. I have had the support of a jolly good team; and at the same time, I have taken some degree of pleasure in breaking the law in a truly honest way: the law is that members of the clergy are not eligible for election to the PCC. In the event, I was co-opted therefore, and I have enjoyed being among you very much.

Stephen Trapnell

Church Electoral Roll Report 2013-2014.

Following the complete renewal of the Church Electoral Roll, which takes place every six years; and despite the loss of a dozen names from the Roll for various reasons, the present figure stands at 73, rising to 74 in January next year.

S.T.

Shalbourne PCC Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December

£	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment & other funds	2012	Total 2011
Receipts & payments account						
Receipts						
Voluntary - regular						
	2	6,179			6,179	6,338
	3	3,514			3,514	2,810
	4	1,353			1,353	2,631
	5	6,277			6,277	7,879
	6	8,913			8,913	21,613
	11	-			-	-
		180	78	18	276	340
		26,416	78	18	26,512	41,611
Payments						
Church activities						
		(11,918)			(11,918)	(9,521)
		(1,349)			(1,349)	(966)
	7	(22,831)			(22,831)	(382)
		(4,250)	(13,938)		(18,188)	(18,671)
		(40,348)	(13,938)	-	(54,286)	(29,540)
Net receipts	10	(13,932)	(13,860)	18	(27,774)	12,071
Statement of assets & liabilities						
Assets						
Cash funds						
		100			100	100
		8,222			8,222	23,074
	8	6,913	-	-	6,913	19,835
		15,235	-	-	15,235	43,009
Other monetary assets						
	4	1,545			1,545	2,465
		-		343	343	342
		-		4,155	4,155	3,779
		1,545	-	4,498	6,043	6,586
Total monetary assets	10	16,780	-	4,498	21,278	49,596
Fixed assets						
	9	1,157			1,157	1,285
	9	243			243	270
Total		1,400			1,400	1,555
Current assets						
		-			-	1,334
Total assets		18,180	-	4,498	22,435	50,881
Liabilities						
		-			-	-
Total liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
Net assets		18,180	-	4,498	22,435	50,881

Shalbourne PCC Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	2012	2011
1.	The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.	
2.	This relates to collections under the gift aid scheme.	
3.	This relates to collections not subject to the gift aid scheme.	
4.	This relates to the recovery of tax on donations made via gift aid and VAT on building work.	
	Tax to be recovered on gift aid donations @ 25%	1,545
	Tax recovered on gift aid donations	1,353
	VAT already recovered	2,631
	<u>Total</u>	<u>5,095</u>
5.	Voluntary other receipts comprise	
	Magazine sales & advertising	3,526
	Weddings	288
	Funerals & graveyard fees	1,121
	Donations	442
	Bell ringing	-
	Other	900
	<u>6,277</u>	<u>7,879</u>
6.	The Classic Car show held on 23 September 2012 raised a total of £5,284 (2011: £14,024) being the difference between receipts of £8,913 (2011: £21,363) and expenses of £3,629 (2011: £7,339).	
7.	During the year improvements were made to the church building as follows:	
	New sign	3,421
	Planning & Supply of new porch doors	4,943
	Electrical work and supply of additional heaters	12,867
	Gates	790
	Other	810
	<u>22,831</u>	<u>382</u>
8.	The CBF restricted funds nil 2012 (2011: £13,860) were fully utilised during the year to partially fund the improvements detailed in note 7.	
9.	No assets were purchased in 2012 (2011: nil).	
	Net book value at 1 January	1,555
	Additions at cost	-
	Depreciation (at 10% per annum)	(156)
	<u>Net book value at 31 December</u>	<u>1,400</u>
		1,728
		-
		(173)
		1,555
10.	The reconciliation of net receipts to the change in total monetary assets is shown below:	
	Total monetary assets brought forward	49,596
	Net receipts	(27,774)
	Prior year receipts cleared in current year	(2,465)
	Less current year receipts not cleared at year end*	-
	Add current year payments not cleared at year end*	-
	Change in value of investments	377
	Deduct tax not yet reclaimed 2009	-
	Add tax not yet reclaimed re 2012	1,545
	<u>Total monetary assets carried forward</u>	<u>21,278</u>
		37,075
		12,071
		250
		(1,746)
		217
		(215)
		(521)
		2465
		49,596
	*2012 receipts and payments included in the receipts and payments account	
11.	There were no grants received in 2012 (2011: nil).	

Shalbourne Church of England Primary School

Parochial Church Council AGM – 20th March 2013

Maintaining a successful school is the challenge for staff and governors alike. Continuity and stability of the staff is crucial, however, sometimes the inevitable happens and a key person needs to move on. During the year Mrs Sarah Evans our Key Stage 2 (KS2) teacher decided to make a complete lifestyle change. She applied for and was successful in securing a teaching post at a remote Scottish Island School, she was looking for a different way of life for her family and in particular her two young sons. We gave her a good send off and a box of goodies including wellies and other equipment suitable for a crofter's way of life.

In September we welcomed Miss Kelly Smith to share the KS2 class with Mrs Matthews. Kelly is a newly qualified teacher, young, enthusiastic and full of ideas but with firm control of her charges.

In December we said farewell to Mrs Shelley Harris a longstanding teaching assistant (TA) due to a change in her family circumstances, we were sad to lose her but wish her well. We had many excellent applicants to take up the TA post and Mrs Bowley and Ms Starr joined us in January. We are fortunate to have an exceptional teaching team. Our three permanent staff supported by our regular supply team and TAs means that we are able to provide a superb learning opportunity for all the pupils in our care. We also recognise the valuable contribution made by our village friends who come into school to hear readers and supervise many other activities.

Pupil numbers continue to increase, and likewise the number of children transferring from other schools. The pre-school and toddler group activities on site continue to flourish and really do make the transition into 'proper' school a happy one and demonstrate the benefit of community cohesion.

Our collaborative venture in the Marlborough Cluster Partnership continues to develop with much benefit to staff, children and governors. I have said previously that there would be changes ahead in funding and some services will no longer be available to us through the Local Authority. This has happened, and through the auspices of the new partnership we have been able to procure the expertise and services that we need. Mrs Viv Withers our superb administration officer ensures that we make the most effective use of our very limited budget.

Since my last report:

- An outdoor classroom has been built. The provision of a canopy with covered sides in the space between the classrooms at the rear of the building means that parents have somewhere to wait under cover and the children are able to continue with outdoor activities even in inclement weather.

The future use of the existing playground is subject to consultation and is as yet undecided; the children are making many different suggestions! We need to ensure that we have the necessary funding before we complete this project.

The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) provides amazing fundraising ventures and its members' enthusiasm and support is much appreciated.

Music continues to feature in school and our special thanks go to Mrs Pollitt for sharing her love of music and for her extraordinary ability to inspire the young musicians. Many of the children make such good progress that they are able to take part in outside events such as the Small Schools Music Festival and the Dance Festival. All the children have the opportunity to play an instrument, and those of you who have attended productions and services will know just how much this boosts self-confidence in our young performers.

As previously reported drama, sports events, first aid, hand bells, gardening and cooking are all available to the children, most of whom are enthusiastic supporters of after-school clubs.

The children have a good understanding of their locality and the wider world, particularly through their partnerships with schools in Harrow as well as global links with schools in France, Spain and Rwanda. Shalbourne School fully embraces this ideal and unusually for a village primary school teaches French and Spanish languages throughout the school as an integral part of the curriculum.

The church community of St Michael and All Angels has a positive impact on the lives of children. We have continued to use 'Lighting the Candle', enabling the children help to plan and lead worship and 'Open the Book' for Bible storytelling. We regularly welcome members of the PCC and value their contribution to school life. Worship in school is highly valued and has an excellent influence on the children; the resumption of attendance by a resident incumbent is a bonus. It is significant that all children refer to 'worship' as opposed to 'assembly', and they are proud of their respective duties in preparing for worship. The children also attend and sometimes take the lead at festival services, end of term services, and leavers' services in the church.

The Governing Body has remained constant, and we have welcomed a new associate member, Mr Mark Lofthouse who joins the team with a great deal of expertise in the running of successful schools. We do thank all the governors for their commitment to the school for what is an increasingly heavy responsibility.

Shalbourne is an outstanding Church school, where the welfare and achievement of all the pupils is paramount. The PCC and the community should be proud to be a part of it. Mrs Ruth Matthews, the staff and the governors look forward to maintaining progress in the year ahead, and hope that you will continue to visit and support us.

The Church Fabric Report 2013

There are three main areas for discussion:

- Quinquennial Survey Report dated 16/8/12 by Chris Romain (CR), Church Architect
- Church Roof Repair following the theft of lead from the South Aisle Roof
- Repair of Chancel Window

Quinquennial Survey Report

This was received in early October and prepared following a visit to the Church by CR on August 16, 2012. This was a few days after the theft of lead from the roof and enabled CR quickly to prepare specific advice on repairing the roof: the Report itself carries no advice on the repair to avoid duplication. A hard copy of the report is available for inspection.

A summary of the Report's conclusions is as follows:

- 'the general condition of the fabric is good'
- two items need to be dealt with immediately:
 - o the water fire extinguisher needs to be retested and a new dry powder one installed (cost estimate £500: job done for £200)
 - o sundry roof repairs (cost estimate £450: done as part of South Aisle repair)
- a number of items need to be dealt with 'within 18 months', the most expensive being 'test lightening conductor/enhance system' (cost estimate £1200)
- in addition 'decay of decorations at low level' is 'cause for concern', but these can be repaired during the period 2012-2017 at a cost estimate of some £2500
- also during 2012-2017, it is recommended that the East Window be repaired at a cost estimate of £900. (job done at a total cost of £331)
- a number of other relatively minor items are included in the summary of priorities between 2012 and 2018
- long term, two significant tasks are identified: stone repairs, at £6000, and redecoration of chancel ceiling, at £7500. This serves to underline the need for the Church Fabric Reserve to be kept replenished

Church Roof Repair Update

The work as specified in the faculty dated 7 January 2013 comprising complete reroofing of the South Aisle in stainless steel, was completed by GSL Romsey on March 14, 2013. The estimated cost was £13,972 plus VAT and the true cost is close to being finalised at the time of writing.

The following factors should be noted:

- Temporary repair: Heritage Roofing of Hungerford were able to install a temporary felt repair just over a week after the theft. This cost £480+VAT
- Insurance cover: Ecclesiastical Insurance will cover the repair costs up to a ceiling of £5000. The insurance claim is underway. A separate claim will also be made for redecorating the interior ceiling where it has suffered water damage (up to a value of £5000). This work is out to tender currently with B & G Talmage, Hungerford; and C Watts, Hungerford, and should be effected shortly
- Repair materials: the faculty granted permission for repair in stainless steel. This was the unconditional advice of CR. It has the durability of lead, yet is 25% cheaper and much less 'stealable': indeed, Ecclesiastical are unaware of any thefts of the material.
- a grant to cover the VAT on the reroofing from the Listed Places Trust is being applied for. CR hopes that we will be reimbursed in full

Repair of Chancel Window

This was completed in November, by Mark Morris, at a cost of £331. (Mark also replaced bulbs and heating elements at a total cost of £239, and effected outside repairs to a manhole cover and the churchyard-gate light at a cost of £256).

An approach to the Diocese of Winchester, under the terms of various ecclesiastical legislation, for reimbursement of the costs of the chancel widow repair, has been rejected as being for 'maintenance' not 'repair'.

Charles Scott

Bell Tower Report

Last year's report carried the glad tidings that several PCC Members had expressed interest in learning to ring and since then we have gained two more trainees. With Monday practices at The Collingbournes and Thursdays at Shalbourne, we achieved our aim of ringing for the Shalbourne Easter Sunday Service but were unable to raise a band for the Carol Service this year. The next target was to ring for a least one Sunday Service a month, and we are on the way to achieving this.

We still host the Little Bedwyn ringers, still awaiting their tower refurbishment, plus several ringers from other towers on our Thursday evening practice sessions.

The New Year's Day ringing service that was initiated for January 1st 2000 across the UK by The Guild of Bell-ringers has continued here. We believe we are the only tower carrying on this service. This year we hosted ringers from five different towers to ring in the New Year with a congregation of 60, most of whom afterwards stayed for the mulled wine and nibbles.

Some work has been carried out by Mike Holt, following on from his inspection last year. During this year the plan is to replace all the ground pulleys and order a new set of upper ropes, which are becoming worn. A new producer of artificial fibre bell ropes is trialling spliced ropes. We are watching this with interest, since they are likely to be reasonably priced.

We are still in need of new (or old) ringers. All are welcome on Thursday evenings (from 7.30pm), anyone interested can contact Ian Dalziel on 01672 870824.

Ian Dalziel

Shalbourne Ham and Tidcombe Parish Magazine Report

The past year has been a busy time and after the long outstanding efforts of Ron Campbell, the editing team has been recently changed. Recently circulation has increased slightly and monthly production costs have been reduced by £30. Advertising rates have been increased by 10%. Following a recent appeal, some households have refused to make a donation although they wish to continue receiving the magazine. Consideration is being given to withholding the magazine from households who could afford to pay but decline to do so. Further consideration is being given to production of a magazine article to explain the financial arrangements and to avoid any misunderstandings about profit. For the next year the aims will be to increase circulation, encourage more contribution and to incorporate more photographs, where appropriate, into the editorial content.

Elizabeth Shaw-Hardy

The Churchyard Report

During the winter, the beech hedge intended to hide the unsightly corrugated iron sheets beside the compost heap had to be re-planted. The original pot-grown plants, kindly donated by Susan Fisher, had unfortunately died after a no-doubt well-intentioned but unidentified person pruned out their growing points before they had become established. The bare root replacements, part paid for by Mark Lofthouse, are somewhat stronger, and given some TLC they should create the desired screening hedge within a few years.

Several limbs of the main yew tree which had threatened to dislodge more tiles from the chancel roof were removed, as were some cherry branches overhanging the drive. A dead cherry tree was also felled and burned, and the suckers on the pollarded limes were cut back.

Finally, a plea to avoid an unsightly mess at the entrance to the car parking field. Please would everyone strive to avoid placing plastic flower wrappings and other uncompostable waste on the above heap? It is a compost heap, not a rubbish dump. There is a labelled bin provided for such waste, although ideally all rubbish should be taken home for disposal.

Andrew Blake