**Holy Trinity Church**

**Easton Royal**

Churchwarden’s Report 2015

Average attendance at ‘usual’ services has been 12. Festival and special services have been well attended. The addition of a regular evening service on the third Sunday is becoming established but will be reviewed. We continue to be grateful to Rev J Dickie for his continuing support. There has been one baptism and one interment of ashes.

Clergy continue to be welcomed into school and the end-of-term services have been held in church. Open the Book is enjoyed and appreciated by children and staff. My thanks to the group of volunteers for their time and efforts.

Fundraising activities during the year included a Call my bluff evening, church fete, progressive lunch and suppers, harvest lunch and village Christmas card, which altogether have raised over £2,000 for funds – again thanks to all who helped in any way to make the events successful. Dry goods were again collected at Harvest for the Trussell Trust in conjunction with the school.

A letter to all villagers was sent in the spring and an open meeting held after the service in mid-May to draw attention to the issues facing the PCC, mainly financial but also how best the church family can serve the parish. There has since been an increase in planned giving. It is also hoped to plan more special services and events.

It was hoped to use planings to level the path to the cemetery but these have not been forthcoming and the matter has not been progressed. These are now expected in June

Prior to the Service of Remembrance, the wall around the memorial was in a poor state. Thanks to the splendid endeavours of B Higham with surplus materials from St Andrew’s Church, Wootton Rivers, the wall was refurbished in time for the service.

Fundraising in the village for defibrillators has taken place and is in place one next to the notice board on the church wall.

There are continuing challenges facing the PCC both financial and in membership. The Rileys moved to Cumbria in November and their support for the village over many years has been substantial, especially Rosey’s efforts in fundraising. They will be greatly missed. One of her last tasks was to contact the architect to make enquiries about installing a toilet and kitchen facility in the church. Plans have been received and are under discussion. There is still no successor to R Tilbrook as Treasurer and we have welcomed M Holden to the PCC.

During the year I have completed the Aldhelm Certificate and the Lay Worship Leaders course.

I continue to be grateful for the ongoing support of PCC members and others in the parish – our organist, sidespeople, readers, providers of refreshments, flowers and cleaners. Not forgetting M Cramsie for his oversight of the Gift Aid.

Bishop Nicholas’ challenge Renewing Hope – Pray, serve and grow’ offers an opportunity to consider where we are and how we can best serve our community. This is an ongoing challenge.

H Hollinsworth

Churchwarden