Report for Parish Council 18th Feb 2016

Concern over the state of the wall around the war memorial resulted in redecoration of the wall in time for the Remembrance Service. Huge thanks to Ben Higham for his efforts, including early mornings and late nights at no cost. Also to Wootton Rivers church for their donation of the paint.

The village Christmas card was very successful last year. Again thanks to A Green for the photo and R Smith for its production also at no cost.

Carol singing around the village raised £182 for the Children’s Society.

Services over the Christmas period were well attended.

Before R Riley left she had contacted the Diocesan architect (who undertakes the Quinquennial review of the church) with regard to providing toilet/kitchen facilities in the church. He has produced plans and it is intended to canvas the village for support. The proposed plan would be to remove three rows of pews on the rear northern side and move the Heritage group cabinet there. The toilet would then be in that area behind the organ. The area where the altar frontal chest is would become the kitchen area. The estimated cost is between £22-25k. Other options could also be considered.

Bishop Nicholas issued a challenge last year – ‘Renewing Hope Pray, serve and grow’ and these have been considered in the PCC meetings.

Following the meeting last May to bring to the attention of the wider village the current position , there has been an increase in the planned giving to the church and successful fund-raising through the year, the position is better.

It is intended to hold a special service on June 12th to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday with a flower festival and contribute to any other village activity. A ‘call my bluff’ evening is planned for 14th May. Harvest Festival will be on 25th September.