

Haughley Church during 2021

The building: Replacement of the leaking South Aisle roof took place from January until March. The old stainless steel roof was replaced by a new stainless steel roof with a more uniform gradient towards the south wall of the South Aisle. By November it was clear that our new roof (cost = £38,000) was leaking at the point that it joins the main church wall. We initiated correspondence to remedy the situation; this was still ongoing into 2022.

The limestone pillars near the chancel have been exuding salt, and these have been treated with a weak limewash to prevent damage to the stonework.

The Parish council suggested re-painting and re-gilding the clock face ready for the queen's platinum jubilee. This process was initiated in July 2021. In November 2021 the Church's PCC agreed to a Parish Council offer to automate the clock.

The churchyard: Large parts of the churchyard were left uncut during the summer, though access to tended graves was our overriding priority. This had a mixed reception from the village, with many praising our eco-initiative, but others complaining that the churchyard looked unkempt. Comments (both positive and negative) were incorporated into planning for 2022.

Margaret and Roy Buttle, who are raising money for the restoration of the War Memorial, approached the church with their plans to flatten the surrounding area for disability access, and work for permission to do this was initiated. Costs would not be charged to the church.

In June, Crawfords school reported that their tree inspection raised concerns over three large trees in the churchyard. We were denied permission to have some branches lopped, but we were asked to fully pollard the trees, and this was carried out just before Christmas.

COVID pandemic: Regular Sunday Church services were not continuing during January, owing to a PCC decision to suspend services. We re-started private prayer on 31st January. Regular Sunday Church services resumed on Sunday, 14th March. Our children's service, PIZZA, re-started on 22 June.

In June the "telephone tree" obtained a £2,500 grant for Covid poverty relief. £250 of this was distributed during half term, through co-op vouchers. We distributed the rest, in stages, before the end of August. In the long-term, we hope to set up a food access-point in church, though the form this will take is still under discussion.

Health and Safety: This has mostly related to covid-19 precautions. We kept a record of the seated locations of every person who came to a service. And the congregation were well-spaced throughout the pews. Anyone who entered the building at other times signed a book and used sanitiser. Most of those who entered the building wore masks and used hand sanitiser. Doors were kept open for ventilation, even in cold weather.

Post Office: The Maxwell Charnley room was closed during the spring, but began to open at the end of the summer. The flat above was occupied.

Foundation governors of Crawford's school (Pip Jackson & Revd. Brin Singleton):

Christian ethos of the school has been significantly reinforced through the work of Rev Brin and arrival of Miss Anna de Piedade as RE teacher. With the easing of restrictions and our church reopening, the school regularly attended a 20-minute collective worship service on Monday mornings at St Mary's, and with the first Monday of the month led by our incumbent. Revd. Brin retired as Head of the governing body in September and was succeeded by a joint appointment of two parent governors, Mrs Heidi Harris and Mrs Jo Allum (from the church congregation) both proving 'hands on' in their new role.

Statement of Mission: We believe that the Church should be accessible and open when possible, and a safe place to be. We continue to make every effort to involve the whole community.

Financial Statement: During 2021, the church ran a deficit of £6891

Haughley Church, May 2022