

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT 2022

After the disruption of the Covid-19 restrictions and a vacancy of almost two years, the parishes of Cottered and Throcking have settled into a new routine. The service rota is in place, although it is sometimes difficult to find retired clergy or a Reader to lead a service if Revd Mark is taking a service elsewhere.

The major change that occurred in 2022 was that the Bishops Council approved the formation of a Joint PCC for Cottered and Throcking. This came into being on 1st September 2022.

We were all saddened to hear in June of the death of Neville Chuck. Neville had been associated with Cottered Church almost all his life and had been Organist since December 1952. He will be greatly missed in both parishes, and in the wider community.

Throcking's Quinquennial Report was received early in the year and the building needs major repairs. Cottered's Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2023 and it is likely that the outcome will be the same. Therefore, to oversee repairs to the buildings a Building Committee has been established, the members being Revd Mark Bailey, Kathy Cassels, Alistair Hill, and Simon Cassia (Chairman of the Friends of Cottered Church).

The Toilet Project in Cottered Church is still not completed, as we are waiting for Lodge and Sons to finish the painting in the Nave and in the Lady Chapel.

Safeguarding is taken very seriously in both churches to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Happily, no incidents or concerns were raised during this past year. In the absence of a volunteer Safeguarding Officer, the first point of contact for anyone wishing to raise a concern is the Revd Mark Bailey. Contact details are publicly displayed in our church porches and on our website for both Mark and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The old Marriage Registers for Cottered and Throcking have been taken to the County Record Office for safekeeping.

Oil was taken from Cottered Church in October, when the tank was emptied. The Police were informed and the PCSO visited, but the perpetrators were not caught. It is planned to put improved security in place going forwards.

The Friends of Cottered Church held a highly successful 2-day Art Exhibition in Church in October and an equally successful Christmas Market in November. It is planned to hold similar events in 2023.

There are a number of people to thank for their efforts to keep both Churches in good order. Firstly, Barry Price who was our Reader for almost thirty years, and his wife Erika who served as Churchwarden to both parishes before their move to St Ives at the end of 2021. Raymond Swain who mows Cottered churchyard regularly during the summer months, and John Harwood-Bee and the Cottered Appreciation Society who hold “tidy ups” in the churchyard twice each year. Melanie Shaw and Ingrid Snell put beautiful flower arrangements in Cottered Church throughout the year and organise others for major events. Shirley Fowler keeps Throcking Church clean (despite the bats) and prepares the church for services. I hope that I have not forgotten anyone, but if I have, then please know you are appreciated.

Kathy Cassels

Churchwarden

April 2023