PARISH AGM - REPORT FROM CHURCH COMMITTEE

Unfortunately our Church Warden, Sidney Adams, passed away in January and he was the main driver at the church. This is a drawback as no Church Warden can be appointed until the Annual Meeting (should we have someone prepared to take on the work).

Our church is coming up to its quinquennial inspection. As suggested by its name, the inspection is usually carried out every five years, however we managed to get an extension on this period and it is now seven years since the previous inspection.

The church is Grade 1 listed and it is likely that there will be a considerable amount of work to be done with electrical work as well as building. This will cost a considerable amount of money (seven years ago is amounted to at least £200,000) so much work will have to be done to try and get grants etc. If (and this is with fingers crossed) we could get the offer of grant, we would have to show that the bills have been paid before any money is transferred. The problem with being listed is that work carried out has to be passed by the Listing Committee – we have previously had a perfectly good item rejected by the committee over something that was very petty.

We are a very small congregation and, at present, the work is done by four members (two of more than 70 years of age and two of more than 80). Obviously help is needed. If we could get the building to a standard acceptable to the Diocese it may be possible to establish a Festival Church – a church that has just six services a year (i.e. Easter, Christmas etc) – which could possibly ease some of the pressures.

We hope that the next report will be considerably better.