

The Vicar Writes...



February 2022

Dear Friends,

As I look back on the last year I think that it's safe to say that it was more than eventful and for many not what we expected. However, we had two very joyous weddings at Burton Dassett originally planned for 2020 but differed due to Covid. Continuing to talk about the church we had the building of the new toilets and store. The lack of amenities at the church has discouraged some from attending services and events in the past. Visitors attending Weddings, Christenings and Funerals have often travelled a long distance and need toilet facilities. In addition to this the Servedry installed in 2019 will give us a wider scope for the types of events we can provide for the local and wider community. The Church has moved from the 12th Century to the 21st Century overnight!

Now I can hear some saying *"If you can afford to do that how come the church says it has no money?"* Well, the money for both of these facilities was raised by the Burton Dassett Restoration Committee specifically to restore, maintain and improve the fabric and facilities at All Saints church. The committee has worked tirelessly over the last 30 years to originally restore the church and make visible the beautiful wall paintings and more recently raise money to provide the servedry and toilets whilst continuing to raise money to maintain the building. They have done this through applying for grants - an exhausting job since for those that were successful many were turned down and in order to receive the grants they were required to raise a substantial sum themselves. Some of this was raised through generous donations but a considerable amount was raised through the committee organising and running a wide variety of countless events including concerts and the much loved Bank holiday teas.

Having been set up 30 years ago by the PCC to restore and conserve the fabric of the Church, the Committee feels it has now achieved its goal. The Church is now in much better order than it was 30 years ago when there were many areas needing restoration and repair. There will always be something that needs attention, however, following a discussion there was unanimous agreement by the committee that at end 2021 the Restoration Committee would close. They feel that what is needed now is a different group to promote the use of the Church and the much improved facilities for the benefit of the Parish and the Dassett Magna Group and the community they serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked on the Restoration Committee and those who have supported them over the years for all their dedication and hard work. As I reflect on all they have done through the years I look forward to the formation of a new group to support the fabric of the Church. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved in this.

Rev'd Nicki