

EXPANDED UPDATE ON THE LAST YEAR IN TIDENHAM PARISH



It has been almost a year since our world was changed by Covid-19. For many, that included the lack of meeting family & friends, social interaction and the opportunity to attend worship in a Church building. That does not mean however that Church has stood still. Indeed, it has, in most aspects, very much continued.

We know that many people have felt really detached from each other and from what's been going on in the life of the Church, so we have put together a little list (which is by no means exhaustive) of activities, projects, plans and developments that have happened or continue to be discussed.

The PCC, Finance Committee and Churchwardens meet regularly to ensure the continuation of the Church, projects and the care of the Church buildings within the Parish of Tidenham.

The Parish is delivering worship via You Tube, the Website and Facebook. As well as Splash, Parent & Toddlers, New Parents Group, Morning Prayer, Youth, Life Groups and Sunday Zoom Coffee, all are involving a large number of people.

The Weekly Briefing took over from the Weekly Notices keeping the Parish up to date.

An expanded Pastoral Team continues working hard to contact everyone at least once a month.

The Parish Christmas Card has gone, and the Easter 2021 Card will go, to every house in the Parish of Tidenham, St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir.

The Parish produced an Advent Calendar Actions 2020 and the series of Lent Booklets 2021.

Some Church members have increased their financial giving and some have switched to online giving in the light of the big hit to Church income caused by the Pandemic.

Funeral ministry has continued throughout the Pandemic. Amazingly four Weddings were able to take place in Summer 2020.

Plans are in place for another Scarecrow Trail in April 2021!

Weekly checks are carried out on all our church buildings.

Tidenham Tower Project and internal re-ordering has submitted Faculties to the DAC. This is often a prolonged process requiring further surveys, research, submissions, information and evidence. Once collated responses will be submitted for final approval.

Tidenham Tower & Re-Ordering Project grant applications are being researched.

Tidenham Church Madocke's Tomb Restoration Project has been halted as the restoration has been priced at £24K, much more than previously thought and which seems unattainable at this time. All the paperwork and research has been preserved for future reference.

Tidenham Church Disabled Access remains under discussion and will be progressed once Covid-19 restrictions allow a DAC site visit.

Tidenham Churchyard has been cleared (by volunteers) of much vegetation growth around and over gravestones and monuments (several Listed and of historical importance) which can now be better appreciated.

Church Cottage, next to St Luke's, has installed a new fence between Church land and the Cottage garden, trees have been pruned, ground vegetation removed and the area tidied.

St Luke's Room has had a make-over, new carpet, new radiators and new back door.

St Luke's Kitchen has a new fire door with integrated glass, allowing light into the corridor.

St Luke's Re-ordering Team applied for an extension to the Faculty as it had expired before works were complete due to Covid-19 restrictions, which was granted.

St Luke's Served details have been finalised and work on the installation begins in April 2021.

St Luke's PA Desk, Book Trolley and Replacement Instrument, amongst other items, are still under discussion.

Tidenham Chase PA System has become defunct and options for its replacement are under discussion.

Tidenham Chase Churchyard renovation has received funds from the Burder Fund, set up specifically for this purpose. Restrictions allowing, this work should be undertaken in August 2021.

Readers, Fiona Gardiner and James Parsons will be attending the Diocesan "Shapes for Living" Course, where they will be trained as a "mentor/encourager to help other Christians explore how they might grow in faith as a lifetime journey".

The future shape of the Administration, Children & Family Ministry, Youth Ministry and Outreach Ministry at Sedbury and the funding thereof, are being discussed, options explored and plans drawn up.

As you can see, despite being unable to meet in Church for Worship, the Church itself continues to thrive, work behind the scenes, and projects for the three Church buildings all continue with the dedication and input of many people.

Thank you to all those who make it happen through practical work, financial support and faithful prayer.

Nicholette Flatman & Prof Brian Duerden

Tidenham Parish Churchwardens