**Church Wardens Report for 2018 – Chris Short and Tim Oliver**

**Magpies nest**

At the beginning of 2018 it was feared that one of our bells had cracked, as the sound was muffled, but this turned out to be a Magpies nest which was restricting the ‘clapper’. The nest was removed and the opening through which the birds were entering blocked up. No further problems have been experienced.

**Temperature in the church**

Previous warden Nick Short conducted tests to find out the temperature differential between high up near the ceiling and low down at floor level. This was done in order to assess whether or not the installation of ceiling fans might improve warmth in the church, especially at seating level. The results showed a very clear maximum differential of 7 degrees centigrade (temperature at ceiling 18 degrees and at seating level 11 degrees), however Peter Francis told PCC that the information he had from the diocese building expert was that unless we could show a differential of over 10 degrees then there was likely to be little benefit in having ceiling fans. The project was therefore dropped.

**New Warden**

At the APCM in April Nick Short stepped down as warden and Chris Short took his place. Karen Hunter-Jones thanked Nick for all his work, especially installing the new sound system and repairing the church roof.

**Broken Yale lock**

In August it was found that the Yale lock attached to the automatic door locking system would not open fully. A locksmith was called and the lock replaced at a cost of £125. It was not clear as to why the lock had failed, but seems likely that someone tried to force entry during a time when the church was locked, and in the process damaged the lock.

**Southern boundary wall**

At PCC Pauline Hill expressed concern over the state of the southern boundary wall, which is ‘bulging’. This is now responsibility of Stroud Council or Highways, so Tim Oliver wrote to Stroud District Council to point out the issue. This was in November and so far no response has been received.

**Gutters**

Previous warden Nick Short drew the PCC’s attention to the gutter near the walkway to the upper door, which was starting to drop. It took some time to find a contractor willing to quote on a relatively small job such as this, but finally ex-Beaudesert school maintenance manager Phil Manning fixed the problem for under £200.

**Maintenance of vicarage**

With Karen Hunter-Jones leaving and the vicarage now empty diocese wrote to the wardens stating that it is now our responsibility to maintain the vicarage garden and to check the vicarage three times per week to make sure it is secure (a requirement for church insurance apparently). Helen Kerr, who cleans the church and also lives opposite the vicarage, very kindly agreed to drop in three times per week, and a sign-in book was created for the purpose of proving that each visit has taken place. It is hoped that diocese will rent out the vicarage in the near future, in which case the garden maintenance and security checks can cease, although as it’s been winter since Karen left there has been no garden maintenance undertaken to date.

**Dog Fouling**

Unfortunately it was found that someone had allowed their dog to foul the churchyard paths. Signs were put up at all churchyard entrances and so far there has been no re-occurrence of this problem.