

## **Annual Report 28th April 2019.**

This report will be quite short.

We have had a momentous year in many respects. The main thing of course has been the installing of ten new bells in the tower of this church, the first ring of bells for English change ringing in France. This project was all down to the friends and family of Jeff and Catherine Ladd. Jeff is well known in bell ringing circles, as was Catherine, so when Catherine died he decided that it would be a wonderful thing to do in her memory to try to raise money to install a ring of bells in this place. Their spiritual home in France where Catherine's ashes are scattered. The church council gave their moral support but not their financial support as we don't have a lot of money.

This came to fruition last week when the bells were finally finished, and we had a wonderful Easter service celebrating resurrection and the new birth. And hopefully it will be a new birth for St. George's it was certainly wonderful to have so many people in church last week.

In September, the weekend of the 28th and 29th there will be a festival of bells, a fete des cloche, and at the service on the Sunday and the bishop will come to dedicate the bells.

So thank you to Jeff for all his work in organizing the fund raising, the bell casting etc, thank you to Steve as project manager, to Michael Strutt as liaison between us and the mairie.

Thanks go as well to John Shearman who is retiring as Treasurer, he's done a great job over the years. Thanks as well to Cobus Vorster for agreeing to take on the role of treasurer.

This last year as well we decorated the church. The commune would not spend the money so we felt we had to. It is a partnership between us and the town council and we were able to borrow their scaffolding and buy paint at a reduced rate on M.Gatte's account. So they did help. Thanks to all those who worked hard to paint and clean, Michael and Kath, Cobus and Lizbe, John and Lynn. And of course thanks too to those who came to clean the church and arrange our wonderful flower displays, when the bells were finished last week.

Doug and Brenda, who did the flowers, John and Rosemary, Richard and Christine, Christine did a final cleaning all by herself on the Saturday. Cobus and Lizbe. Maggie working hard as ever, she's my right hand right through the winter, hardly ever misses a service except when she has her responsibilities to perform for Cancer Support France.

Sadly as you all know Paul and Maddie Barnard died this year, Paul only last week. We remember them fondly.

John Shearman has built cupboards in the vestry so all our stuff can be safely stored away and so that the tower area can be free for the ringers. So thank you to John for his work there as well.

Thank you to Lesley for putting up with me and all she does behind the scenes for the church. And thanks to all the folk who just get stuck in making the coffee and washing up.

David Phillips