

## **St. Mary's D.I.Y.team report 2015-2016**

Internally there have been minor repairs of pew and bracket work . The discovery of Dry- Rot needed the expertise of professionals with Diocese Architect and Faculty which has addressed the issue in the church and the tower. Fund raising remains paramount for the imperative work that needs to be undertaken on the stonework of the Tower.

Externally the team of John Butler, John Read, John Carter, Sam Ward, Ray Hunt, Elisabeth Parkin, Dick Scott-Kerr , Andrew Boutbee and Stephen Turrell endeavour to keep the paths , borders and graveyards clear and well tendered. Gwen Fisher and John Butler have been instrumental in the last two years to see St. Mary's entered into South East in Bloom which has been rewarded by a host of volunteers leading up to the competition judging and two rich prizes for all of their good works. This has also lead to new signs for the congregation and public to find suitable access to the Church by various means of perambulation.

Although there was hope for the local government authority of Horsham District Council to place Dog Waste bins they wished to place a £300.00 annual charge for collection which was deemed an unnecessary cost to the Church and so signage and tied bags placed in the usual waste bins leads to that bin being wheeled to the rectory for Wednesday collections. This has proved to be adequate though there are some occasions when some dog owners have been careless in the control of their pets. The potential for development of the Glebe Field may lead to bins eventually being placed at the graveyard perimeter and the hope of responsible dog waste collection.

We are pleased to see that the health of Peter Bristow has been maintained and that he along with Guy Levey as our stipendary gardeners have started their seasonal thirty week contracts. This expenditure funded by Horsham District Council is under constant review and has lessened annually repeatedly so Guy and Peter's position will always be under review and why we are so glad for all of the good works undertaken by the congregation and volunteers. If you know of anyone that wishes to meet with the team most Monday mornings or at a time which is appropriate and can work safely and competently with others then make yourself known at services or through the parish office. Young adults between jobs would be most welcome and might like their C.V.s signed by the rector for community service awards.

Might we also give thanks to the step cleaning team of Sheila Boulton, Simon Emmerson, Jackie & Stuart Lee, Robert Perrin and John Peal.

Lee Smith