

Wardens' report for APCM May 2022

This time last year, we were reporting on the activities of Mike Hinton and his fabulous fogging machine, which was used to sterilise the buildings in between services. Full covid precautions carried on for a while, with risk assessments, track-and-trace, distancing, masks, hand-sanitiser, no singing, no coffee and definitely no mingling. Thankfully, the last few months have seen a process of gradual relaxation of restrictions, and the fogging machine is safely packed away somewhere. We don't feel completely back to normal yet, and it will be a while before the Trinity Centre is back to its previous level of bookings, but we are heading in the right direction. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding in adhering to the ever-changing covid rules over the last year. Please let the wardens, staff team or church office know if you still have any concerns.

The last year also saw the departure of William Small, who moved to Spain for family reasons, and we thank him again for his contribution to the life of the church. Taking over as Operations Manager, Kevin Pilsbury is now fully integrated into the team in the church office, and has familiarised himself with the intricacies of running a busy church operation in a remarkably short time.

Essential maintenance work on the buildings and equipment continues, and we are catching up with work that had to be postponed during covid. A big concern for the next few months, which we know we share with all of you, will be the dramatic rise in electricity and gas bills, and we are putting serious thought into practical ways to reduce the impact (on our pockets and on the planet!).

We will both be handing over our wands (those are the long wooden sticks, topped by a crown and a bishop's mitre, that churchwardens are supposed to carry when processing very slowly up the aisle) with effect from this APCM, so there will soon be some new faces on the photo gallery at the back of church. It has been an honour and pleasure to have served as wardens for these past few years. We would like to thank the whole staff team for their hard work and support, which has made the wardens' job so much easier. We hope our successors will enjoy the work, and wish them well.

Erica Staples and Richard Boak