

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday, 25th April, 2012 at 8.00 pm at Kings Bromley Village Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Seddon; County Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland; 4 Councillors;
Mr. I. Colclough (Clerk); PC Andy Brown;
11 members of the public;

1. Apologies: Cllr. S. Holland; Mr. P. Lovern – Richard Crosse School;
Mrs. Alison Howard.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2011 be signed as a true and correct record. Proposed by Steve Browne and seconded by Mr. Jarman.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council – Cllr. Gareth Seddon.

It seems hardly any time at all since Ian Pritchard sat here last April and asked “Where does the time go?” This has been another busy year which began with 2 vacant seats on the council after only 5 nominations were received by the due date. We were able to co-opt Mrs. Rothery and Mr. Browne in May 2011. The attendance of your Councillors has again been excellent with 2 of us achieving 100% attendance – congratulations to Councillor Pritchard. Responsibilities stayed broadly the same as previously, though with Councillor Holland taking over as Chairman of the Planning Advisory Committee, and Councillors Browne and Mrs. Gair taking on liaison regarding the proposed HS2. Within the village, Allan Howard again consented to look after Kings Bromley’s ‘Best Kept Village’ campaign in which we once again received great plaudits whilst understanding that others have to be allowed a sniff of victory from time to time. We thank Allan for his work and wish him, and everyone else involved, all the best for the 2012 competition for which judging begins on 1st May. A special mention must go to the churchyard gang whose continued efforts provide the village with magnificently-tended surrounds to our Norman church. We were finally able to complete the resurfacing of the approach to the war memorial with Councillor Ian Pritchard having taken the lead on this. We took some time to canvas opinion and make sure that we were doing the right thing but the renovation seems to have met with universal approval. We are grateful to Charles Jarman and Michael Gair for their work in maintaining the war memorial – it is a beautiful and fitting centrepiece to the village of Kings Bromley. The Kings Bromley Show continues to be the highlight of the year especially when, as last year, it is accompanied by such beautiful weather. Thanks and congratulations to all of those involved in making it such a success. It is a fantastic occasion and long may it continue. The village Christmas tree continues to prove something of a curate’s egg, thereby proving that you cannot please all of the people all of the time. We continue our pursuit of the elusive ‘Goldilocks Tree’ which will prove ‘just right’. The new play equipment purchased with a donation from within the village was installed behind the Village Hall and seems to have been a great hit. Our thanks go to the donors. The funding to which Ian referred last year for ‘walk leaflets’ was finally put to good use and new, updated, leaflets were produced. We hope that everyone enjoys the walks. Mrs. O’Brien relinquished the role of auditor of Parish Council finances this year. We are grateful for the work she did on our behalf for many years, and we thank her for it. It has been good to see the growing success of the Royal Oak: Mary and her team have provided a welcoming atmosphere which now sees

the pub being the village focal point which it should have been all along. However, challenges are never far away. In these straitened times the Parish Council has to work hard to ensure value for money without any drop in quality of services – through careful financial management we have managed to set a ‘no increase’ budget for the fourth year in a row, but it is important that everyone understands that there must be an increase at some point. The arrival of the Localism Act highlights the need for us to update our Parish Plan – this will mean a significant amount of work for your Councillors. Local boundary changes mean that Janet Eagland will not represent Kings Bromley on Staffordshire County Council after the next election. Janet has always worked hard on behalf of Kings Bromley and we thank her for her continued efforts. We shall miss her when she goes, so it is important to make the most of her until she does. PC Andy Brown retires in November 2012. Andy has become a well-known face in Kings Bromley, helping many people and being key in maintaining the low crime rate which we enjoy. Again, Andy will be missed in Kings Bromley. Ian spoke last year of the threat posed to the village by gravel extraction. It would appear that this threat has gone away (for now, at least) but it is important to be vigilant: we thank Anne Anderson for her work in co-ordinating opposition to gravel extraction and for keeping us informed all along the way. Again, Janet Eagland’s support has been key. Traffic continues to be a major issue for Kings Bromley (it was interesting to see that Parish Council meeting minutes for 1914-1918 detailed many issues regarding Highways – *plus ça change!*). We did manage to get the traffic surveys re-done and continue to work hard lobbying Highways to offer us some protection against both high volume of traffic and high speeds – further discussions were scheduled for today but the promised call did not come and 90 minutes was wasted. Watch this space... Perhaps the biggest threat is that of HS2 which, unfortunately, seems to be invisible to many in the village who may believe that it could never happen to them. The truth is that it could, and it will if we do nothing about it. We thank all of those involved in the ‘Stop HS2’ campaign as they continue to work on behalf of all of us. The Parish Council has appointed 2 councillors to liaise on this issue and the Council continues to contribute funding for the campaign locally as it is able. It would be good to think that we could report more positively on this issue in 12 months’ time. This year has been an eye-opener for me as I have seen just how much time and effort is required to deal fully and fairly with Parish Council business. All of your Councillors give freely of their time (there is much more to it than a monthly meeting) in administering this first tier of local government and keeping things running for the benefit of everyone: attending meetings of various agencies; reading and digesting the ever-growing mountain of paperwork; attending to a whole raft of communications. There is no payment, and I have never known anyone even consider claiming expenses (to which they would rightly be entitled). It is therefore disappointing to be accused of ‘doing nothing’ but, again, you cannot please all of the people all of the time. Parish Councils across the country are struggling for councillors; I thank our Councillors for stepping upto the plate and keeping Kings Bromley ‘local’. It is important to end on a positive note: that positive note is our Parish Clerk. My first duty as Chairman was to write a reference for the then Parish Clerk who chose to leave us to go back to full-time work. The Parish Council cannot function without the Clerk, and we were concerned as to what might happen. After what seemed like a never-ending process we were delighted to appoint Ian Colclough who joined us in November – his has proven to be a truly inspired appointment. He has brought us some new ideas, great expertise, and he provides first class service to Kings Bromley Councillors and parishioners alike. Thank you, Ian. If I have missed anybody out, then I apologise and am happy to put the record straight at a later date. Thank you.

5. Parish Council Finance

i. Budget 2012/13

The clerk said that the council had again kept the precept unchanged for the fourth consecutive year. With other revenue there would be an expected income of approximately £13,715. After careful consideration an estimate of expenditure was £12,696 leaving a surplus of £1019. This was always subject to change as unexpected costs could impact on expenditure at any time during the year. Costs are rising and it is inevitable that an increase in the precept will be required in future.

ii. Unaudited Accounts for the year to 31/3/12

An unaudited copy of the accounts summary had been provided to all attendees. The clerk asked if there were any questions concerning the balance sheet. None were forthcoming. The accounts are currently with Tomkinson and Teal of Lichfield for the yearly internal audit.

6. District Councillor's Report and questions – Cllr. Ian Pritchard.

I still remain as Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Environmental Protection. We are as a Cabinet guiding Lichfield District through extremely difficult economic times - trying desperately hard to maintain all the services people quite rightly expect from a smaller budget. The Cabinet have spent hours discussing ways to avoid increasing the council tax, particularly as an offer was on the table from Central Government for a 2.5% subsidy on the first year, payable only if we continued with the freeze for a further 2 years. Over the years Lichfield has run a very tight ship, one of the lowest council taxes in Staffordshire. Lichfield Council collects the tax, simply only holding on to 9%, so the increase was 3.4% only on the 9% - approximately 9p. per week on a Band D property. This equates to £4.68 for the whole year. We could see no alternative if The District is to remain viable and have a well-run council. Rather than going through all that the Council undertake during the year, which would keep you here most of the night, I have picked out two areas relevant to my own portfolio. Your District Council is leading the way in Staffordshire with "Let's Work Together" This is where every person who goes into someone's home to provide a social care service are all trained to notice possible dangers or people with visible problems. If a Meal on Wheels delivery driver goes into the home and notices the house or flat is colder than it should be or someone is not eating their meals, it will be reported and dealt with. Making sure none of our residents are neglected. Getting underway is the Outer Friary Development. As well as a 90 bedroom hotel, a few retail units and a multi-storey car park, it does give us the opportunity to add to the social housing stock by including in the development 54 supported housing for older residents of the District as well as 6 shared ownership homes to give first time buyers a chance to get on the housing ladder. Last year only 40 social houses were built throughout the year and even less the year before. Did you know, in about 15 years, around 25% of the population in The District will be of pensionable age. You can see the work we are doing in keeping people in their homes for as long as possible is so important. I mentioned at last year's Annual Meeting, all your District Councillors continue to work together to complete the Local Development Framework, this should be completed hopefully this year. If you would like to know more or you need my help in any way, please do not hesitate to make contact with me. Although I am involved quite heavily at District level, I will always look after the interests of the village and its inhabitants.

7. County Councillor's Report and questions – Cllr. Mrs. J. Eagland.

Cllr. Eagland said that she gives regular updates at most Parish Council meetings that she attends and forwards relevant information to the clerk for distribution. Regular

meetings are also held between SCC and Mrs Anderson about gravel extraction. On highways speed limits, a new 20mph has been installed outside the village school and an extension to the 30mph limit on Lichfield Road. During the recent road closure at Yoxall she was able to help local businesses by having the correct signs in place. Her community fund was allocated, this year, to the bowls club where a second-hand mower was purchased. She attends the village show in July and helps judge the dog show. She is involved in some of the HS2 meetings. Every year there are Highway progress meetings, the next one being late April. She pulls together a priority list of work compiled from Parish Council requests. This will be her last open meeting at Kings Bromley as changes to the local council boundaries will mean she will not be responsible for the parish after 7 years of involvement. It is not known who will be county councillor yet. She will be sad to leave as she has made many friends and acquaintances over those years. She then asked if anyone had any questions. None were forthcoming.

8. Policing in Kings Bromley – PC Andy Brown.

PC Brown said that there seems to be a bit of a crime wave over the last month. There was a burglary at The Grange.

A JCB stolen was stolen from a compound on the A515 - this was recovered in Uttoxetter as the vehicle was fitted with a tracker device.

Two catalytic converters were stolen, one from the village hall car park and one from The Grange. Some suspects have been arrested for this and cutting equipment recovered although they could not be linked to these thefts.

In Alrewas Road a vehicle was broken into and power tools stolen.

At Bromley Hayes an Ifor Williams trailer was stolen during the daytime. A Vauxhall Frontera and white Transit were involved but no registrations are known.

Due to the recent crime spike extra patrols have been tasked with patrolling the village.

There has been a 28% reduction in burglaries in the LDC area in the last 12 months.

10% are from garden sheds and garages.

Metal field gates are also being stolen for their scrap value.

The new police number for local crimes is 101 but still dial 999 for emergencies.

He concluded by saying he is retiring in November after completing 30 years service and thanked the villagers and parish council for their help and support over that period.

The chairman thanked PC Brown for his hard work in helping the parish over many years.

9. Kings Bromley United Charity – report read by Cllr. Seddon.

The main responsibility of the charity is the upkeep of the three almshouses. The trustees had two regular meetings during the last year. Mr. G. Archer is now chairman and Mrs. Crockett vice-chairman. There was one extraordinary meeting to interview an applicant for one of the houses. Mr. Bowcock retired as co-opted trustee and was thanked for his work. Mr. Lloyd was co-opted in his place and agreed to take over the role as treasurer. Mr Padmore of 2 Manor Road had passed away in January. It was decided to refurbish the property and the work was completed by June. Mr. Pitman moved in that month. The gardens of the properties are now much improved. The weekly maintenance contribution has been increased by a small amount.

Bibles were presented by the charity to children leaving school.

The accounts show an excess of payments over receipts for 2011 of £6053.16
The charity is grateful to Mr. Wright for his auditing services.

10. Gravel Group Report

Mrs Anderson was unable to attend the meeting. The clerk read out a written report. Proposals to extract Sand and Gravel from Wychnor Estate North and South, Alrewas West, and Bancroft Farm:- Over the course of the last 3 years we have been working to

prove beyond any doubt that there is no need to open up any new sites for the extraction of sand and gravel in this area. We have presented our case to both Lichfield District Council and to Staffordshire County Council. As a result, Catherine Raines, Deputy Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council has assured us that SCC will not include sites west of the A38 between Alrewas and Kings Bromley in the Minerals Core Strategy currently being prepared. We have continued to monitor the situation and Cllr Janet Eagland has informed us of all planning applications to date for extraction in the wider area of Lichfield and Burton. As we expected, all have been in relation to extensions to existing sites and if granted will relieve pressure on the opening up of any new sites for some considerable time.

11. High Speed Rail 2 - report by Cllr. Browne.

Cllrs. Browne and Gair are attending meetings on behalf of the council. Cllr. Browne reported by saying that they are attending many meetings and that the issue is not going away. All local councils are against the proposals and he asked residents to support local action groups. Regular meetings will be taking place with other local groups. No clear route for the railway has been laid down, as the problem is HS2 Phase 2 where HS2 links into the west coast main line near Handsacre. The action group wants to walk the length of the line and are waiting on landowners permission. Trains will operate 18 hours a day and so far the numbers of trains is unknown. The construction will likely start on 2017 and last until 2026 and land is being purchased at the moment. This does not affect most of us but will affect your children and grandchildren so it is important we act on their behalf. Please therefore support the HS2 action group – this will be a long hard battle.

Cllr. Eagland added that SCC are also against the proposals and have allocated £5000 plus a further £4000 from her for use by the action groups.

Action Group report. The group has been working hard for 12 months and meetings are well supported. Many have signed the petition. HS2 is not a 'done deal'. If you want to be involved there will be monthly meetings every third Wednesday in the village hall starting in May. They will also have a presence at the show in July.

12. Village Organisation Reports.

The following organisations had either sent in reports in advance or there was a representative at the meeting to give the report:-

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – Mrs. Sutton.

The scouts are now known as The Forresters and all groups are flourishing, so much so that the beavers and cubs have split, as they were too large. There are 140 members who engage in many differing activities from trips out, to developing learning skills. They have been on walking holidays including one to Edale. A trip to a bowling alley was well supported. Two members have been chosen to represent Staffordshire at the opening of a new orphanage.

Bellringers – David Edmonds

Kings Bromley Bell Ringing report for the period 1 May to 31 December 2011 to the Annual Meeting of the Kings Bromley Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 25 April 2012. It has been a busy year and thanks must go to everyone for supporting the ringing at Kings Bromley, Mavesyn Ridware and in some cases now, Hoar Cross. We have managed to ring for the majority of services, practises and for special occasions. Reverend Ty Leyland is very supportive of the ringers and this enables the ringing of numerous peals, mainly at Mavesyn Ridware. We welcomed two new members of the band who we hope we will see progressing over the coming year – they are under the tutorage of Lance Hill, Tower Captain of St John the Baptist, Armitage, to whom we are

grateful for all the time, energy and enthusiasm he puts into teaching ringing. Viv Leyland is to be congratulated for becoming a full member of the Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society of Change Ringers. It is much appreciated that Viv now juggles her playing of the organ with ringing on a Sunday morning but it does mean we can field a band of six for services more regularly. As is becoming the norm a quarter peal was rung at Kings Bromley on the Kings Bromley Show day. For a couple of months in the summer of last year Andrew Ogden, our Tower Captain, was working on the installation of a new ring of 12 bells at St Michael Cornhill in the City of London. Towards the end of the installation he was invited to become member number 8156 of The Ancient Society of College Youths, which was founded in 1637. The Society is the premier change ringing society in the City of London, with a national and international reputation that promotes excellence in change ringing around the world. The churches the society regularly rings at include St Giles Cripplegate, St Lawrence Jewry, St Michael Cornhill, St Paul's Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral. During the summer there was an outing to four churches in the Burton On Trent area – St Mary, Rolleston on Dove, St Mary, Stretton with Claymills, St John the Divine, Horninglow and St Chad, Burton on Trent. Outings are most enjoyable occasions because not only do many of us get to ring on different bells, which is always good for experience, but we also see interesting churches two of which on this occasion had been built in the heyday, and with the wealth of, the brewing industry. Another excellent event was the holding of the AGM of the Society at Mavesyn in September. This had been in preparation for some time. We were blessed with good weather and a turnout of nearly seventy ringers. In between the ringing and the thanksgiving service the attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet tea. Finally, we are most fortunate to have Andrew and Anne Ogden leading the ringing at Kings Bromley and Mavesyn. I know officially Andrew is the Tower Captain, but it is very much a double act, and as a consequence of Andrew's job frequently taking him away he is not always available to take the practise night and so we rely on Anne to do so. But it is not just their commitment, they are both very good ringers, as are many of our regular visitors, and to be able to ring alongside them is a privilege and for those of us who are less experienced it gives us the confidence to ring to as high a standard as we can and encourages us to progress. Our annual Christmas Dinner was once again held at The Shoulder of Mutton, Hamstall Ridware, an occasion which as usual was much enjoyed by all.

BKV – Allan Howard

Last year we did not win our category, coming second. This years attempt is up and running with a 'clean up' day being held at 10am this coming Saturday. Street representatives have been appointed and A5 posters will be delivered for display to every household. The childrens posters will be displayed in the village hall. Finally, would all residents undertake a quick tidy of their front gardens and pick up any litter they see?

Churchyard Gang – Brian Lomas

The clerk read out the report.

2011 was a good year in that the drought meant the grass did not need to be cut as often. This meant that less fuel was used. Thanks to the Parish Council for the donation towards costs. Two members have had to retire reducing numbers to 14 with half being over 80 years of age. New members are always welcome. Meetings are each Wednesday morning weather permitting. Rabbits have now been excluded by the erection of netting to form a rabbit proof fence. Entries to the best-kept churchyard have been made for the last 19 years and we have won prizes on 17 occasions. In 2012 we won silver of which only 7 were awarded in the diocese.

Football Club – Swifts.

The clerk read out a report. The Swifts are currently in Division 1 of Burton and District league and are having their most successful season ever. After 105 years they are top of the league and likely to be promoted to the Premier league. They are also in the cup final to be played at Gresley Rovers ground on 29th April at 10.30am – all welcome. They have a squad of around 20 players. If anyone is interested in joining ring Peter Woodfield. (Ask clerk for his number) or go to a training session at Holland Park club in Barton on a Thursday at 6.30pm (commencing Sept).

Gardening Guild – Allan Howard

There are monthly activities including guest speakers and outing of interest to all who enjoy gardening. The next trip will be on 19th May and seats are available. A full programme and contact details are on the Village Hall notice board.

Historians – Allan Howard

They have an interesting line of research following up connections with Barbados. First publication produced and has undertaken work on the almshouses, which will be published later. Made a contribution and were instrumental in bidding successfully for a painting by local artist D. Lane. This will be unveiled on Jubilee Day in the village hall.

Horticultural Society – Allan Howard

This years theme will be the Olympic Games. The show may make a small loss this year as advertising and sponsorship are down. There will be no increase in the cost of admission. The Buddhist Temple will be using the show field later in the year. The society makes donations to help other village organisations and paid half the cost of the walk leaflets.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr. Gilmour had provided a brief report. This is the Village channel for informal communication between Police and Villagers. Alert notices rapidly warn of local incidents and perils such as computer scams. These are communicated through the OWL (On-Line-Watch) system either direct to individual villagers by e-mail or through Watch Street Co-ordinators. Contact the Village Co-Coordinator on 473578 for help or information of the OWL system.

Royal British Legion

Mr. Gilmour had provided a brief report. Besides supporting local veterans, the local branches present objectives, for the small membership, is to maintain the Poppy Appeal and the two village Remembrance services in November. Any volunteers for the Poppy house-to-house collection will be most welcome. Contact the Hon Secretary on 473578 for details of meetings.

Speedwatch

Mr. Gilmour had provided a brief report. Due to lack of formal channels of support, this operation has very regrettably had to be suspended

Thai Buddhavari Temple – P. Bhatsakorn

There was one major event last Sunday and this may have caused some traffic disruption for which they apologise. They will again be using the show field for a major event on 25th and 26th August and will again do their best to minimise disruption. They have regular visits from schools and scouts and in November there will be a phased walk. On 8th July there is a free buffet lunch to celebrate the Jubilee and everyone is invited. The chairman thanked Mr. Bhatsakorn for his report.

Voluntary Car Scheme

I haven't really much to say about the Voluntary Car Scheme. I have been running it for about 17/18years now and Staffordshire County Council funds it. Funding is granted on

a yearly basis. As the scheme provides a service we have no actual members, and have no activities or plans. The only thing other than matching a driver up to a request for transport, is recruiting new drivers to the scheme. We currently have 8 drivers, which seems quite sufficient for our needs, at present. If there is anything else you might need to know or I can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club is a group of retired people who meet on the first Wednesday in the month either for a speaker or an outing. During the past year we have had some changes and were pleased to elect Vera Wilson as our new Chairman after Evelyn Reynolds had to retire due to ill health. In 2011 we had a visit from the Fire Service and had a talk on the history of Lichfield. We learned about post war radio and experienced the thrills of climbing the Old Man of Hoy. Members enjoyed two visits to the theatre and the outings were to Chester and Derbyshire. We were pleased to receive a grant from Staffordshire County Council through Mrs. Janet Eagland and this enabled us to purchase a PA system. We also purchased two banners to enhance our Bric a Brac Stall at the Village Show; this stall brings in valuable income, which helps us pay for speakers throughout the year as our subscription remains at only £5 per annum. Mr. Nick Carter represented the Club by laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service. During 2012 we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary – The Club was originally formed by a group of benevolent villagers (originally called The Old Peoples Welfare Wednesday Club) in order to raise funds, which enabled them to give the poorer villagers a Christmas Party, a Gift and an Annual Outing. Visitors and new members are always welcome to our meetings.

Youth Club – Julia Coyle

Our club is now very well established, with a maximum number of regular members and a long waiting list at present. Sheenagh, Julia and Jane are still leading the club each week with the support of Gareth Wood, Kevin Masefield and a rota of parent helpers. We are always looking for additional support where possible and will be requiring new leaders in the near future. We have provided some new activities this year; including our very first in-house disco where members were able to bring a guest, we also had a junk modelling competition where teams designed their own robot and created a number of interesting accessories. We decided to have our fundraising evening a little earlier this year to coincide with Sports Relief. We held a Silly Circuits sponsored event alongside a hot dog and cake stall and managed to raise over £200 to split between the club and Sports Relief. Using this money we have been able to provide more exciting activities and were particularly pleased to welcome Andy Gilbert, Cartoonist back to the club for another of his fantastic workshops. This year is a very exciting one in which the club is looking forward to making the most of both the Olympic Games and the Jubilee for inspirational ideas. We look forward to holding a family games night during the summer term to celebrate these events. Anyone wishing to find out further information regarding the club should contact either Julia Coyle or Sheenagh Piggott.

13. Open Forum

Mr. Jarman asked if the council had made any arrangements to celebrate the forthcoming Queens Diamond Jubilee. Cllr. Seddon said that Cllr. Browne was coordinating this by collecting details of events being staged by the various village organisations and that this information would be published by 10th May. Cllr. Browne appealed for organisers to let him know as soon as possible as, so far, only five had been in touch.

There being no other business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Judging of the children's best kept village posters then took place.

Tea, coffee and cakes were made available to all.

The following report was omitted in error – sincere apologies to Mr Wright for this omission.

All Saints Church – Report by Glen Wright.

Introduction. We would like to express our thanks to Ty for his continued leadership, supported by Viv, in ministering to the needs of the parish. We all realise that, with 3 parishes to look after, his time is more than fully occupied.

Report for the past 12 months.

There have been no major alterations to the fabric of the Church during the past 12 months. Minor items during the year included: - In May we were notified that Lichfield District Council would no longer provide free waste collection from Church, and that the cost would be £65 per annum. Therefore in future the majority of waste is burned on the churchyard bonfire whenever possible, and any remaining non combustible material is be taken away and put in domestic waste. In July an engineer from Smiths of Derby serviced the clock. At present one of the clock chimes at the quarter hour is not striking. Andrew Ogden has examined the mechanism and it appears that the hammer is not being pulled back far enough to spring forward and strike the bell. We are awaiting Smiths' engineer to call. Thor Lightning Protection has carried out the annual inspection of the conductor. In early summer we ordered and received a Smartwater package for application to the roof, and this was completed. A Smartwater notice is now displayed in the roadside notice board. In the autumn the outer door from Clock chamber onto the roof was removed, repaired and rehung. A substantial amount of debris from birds' nests was removed. It was noticed that an attempt to remove some of the lead guttering to the north side of the main roof had been made, and some of it rolled up in two rolls, although none appears to be missing. It was arranged to put the lead back in place. In January a pane of glass in the lychgate light came loose and was jammed in the bottom opening. It was removed whole and will be replaced when the weather has improved sufficiently to allow the adhesive to set.

Church Services Attendances continue to hold up well, for both family and traditional services, such as Mothering Sunday, Christingle, 9 Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Eve Crib Service and Easter.

Fund-raising Our events, which are open to everyone, continue to do well, The 2011 Appeal was especially successful with a 20% response to the mailing. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed.

The Churchyard continues to be beautifully maintained, for which we would like to thank Brian Lomas and the whole Wednesday team. Congratulations to them for winning the Silver

award again and also an Environmentally Friendly Churchyard award, introduced for the first time last year.

Finally, Peter and I would like to thank everyone who cares for the Church building and its contents, in any way, and all those who help in so many ways with services. We are very grateful for everyone's assistance.

This concludes the Church report for the past 12 months.