

Report for Stow Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Parish of Stow with Sturton

Visiting Groups to Stow Minster

Not as many visitors as in previous years with fewer planned (guided) groups. One U3A, two private groups, one church group (Grimsby). The new tea towel has sold quite well - with the burgundy colour being most popular, followed by brown then black.

Post Office

The Post Office continues to provide a three half day per week service. Very occasionally there are late starts, or cancelled sessions - usually as a result of equipment failure awaiting a visiting engineer. The instances of these events has reduced following the introduction of new equipment.

Sturton by Stow Primary School

A year group from the primary school visited Stow Minster as part of their religious education studies. The same will happen again this year. In addition the whole school attended the church just before Christmas for a Christingle service.

Church maintenance

During the year the legally required five yearly inspection has been undertaken, electrical system checked, and equipment PAT tested.

The gas boiler has been serviced but obtaining spare parts is now an increasing problem as the boiler is no longer manufactured, and the PCC will need to give consideration to a replacement in the near future. The boiler house roof is to be replaced as soon as the necessary permissions are in place.

A potential hole below the floor of the Mary Chapel was found to be a long forgotten, but unused, heating duct. Nevertheless an overlying floor slab is delaminating (ie becoming less strong) and will need to be replaced.

Part of the churchyard boundary wall collapsed a few weeks ago. This has now been rebuilt after the necessary permissions through the church planning process and from Historic England (who manage Scheduled Monument consent) for emergency work to be undertaken.

A volunteer offered to clean the brasses. The volunteer was faithful in this task, and had set himself a regular programme of work. Sadly, he has moved from the immediate area for health reasons and will no longer be able to help.

It is becoming more difficult to maintain the housekeeping of St Mary's to the standard we would like to achieve. This is in part due to a lack of volunteers able to give a regular commitment, and partly due to lack of time and energy of those who do volunteer as age catches up with them. For similar reasons, grass cutting within the churchyard has suffered from less frequent cuts.