

ST MARGARET'S, HINTON BLEWETT

During the past year we have had 2 marriages, 1 christening, 2 funerals with internment in the churchyard and 2 internments with the services at St Lawrence, East Harptree.

The annual fete was again the main fund raiser and whilst it had its moments in organisation, it came together extremely well for a memorable afternoon on the village green. Mrs Hill of Coley Court generously again raised funds selling plants at her open garden day and we were not aware at the time that it would be the last of a considerable era due to her subsequent death after a short period of ill health.

With regard to maintenance, the flag pole has been refurbished and re-erected, much pruning and clearance of old shrubbery both of which have been carried out with the assistance of a resident. Some grave levelling has been done with some remaining to be done. The Manor boundary wall has been extensively repaired. The remainder is programmed for this year. The disabled access and relaying of the path is due to be completed this year. As you can see there have been many items that the grant from the Parish Council has contributed to in the upkeep of the grave yard.

Catherine our vicar is working hard towards forming links with families and encouraging young people to make church a regular part of their weekend.

A concerted effort to encourage villagers back into church and feel comfortable with being there has been undertaken. Harvest Festival and Carol Service were both well supported with the normal Crib & Candle on Christmas Eve as popular as ever. A "helpers" wine and cheese at the Church followed by a talk on the church's history was well received. St Margaret's was also used for the Christmas Concert of the local choir 'Vox in Frox' which was a sell out.

Flower ladies and grass cutting teams have continued to keep the Church and Churchyard look cared for with new villagers joining both.

Graham Sage
Churchwarden