

# Churchwarden's Report 2019 – 2020

## Churchyard

A lot of work has taken place in the churchyard this year;

- The felling of the diseased horse chestnut tree has been completed and at the time of writing this report the stump of the trunk is still in place. There was some damage to the grass area around the tree but this has been repaired by infilling with top soil.
- The stones piled at the base of an adjacent yew tree have mostly been removed to an area in the south west corner of the churchyard. The stones have been placed onto a heavy duty plastic sheet to prevent weeds from growing up between the stones. There are still 2 small areas in the churchyard where stones need to be removed, hopefully during the course of this year.
- The hedge between the churchyard and Joaney Crossley's property has been reduced to shoulder height making it more manageable. This hedge will be shaped in the coming autumn. The height reduction has also provided a better view of the church for many villagers.
- There has been a planting of daffodil bulbs in the churchyard at the entrance on both sides of the lych gate and a stone slab has been positioned under the new tap to provide a clean base and reduce the likelihood of this area becoming muddy.
- The lych gate is still a concern as the timber frame continues to rot and be eaten by various insects.
- There are holes around the churchyard and headstones that need to be cleared not just to make the churchyard tidier but also safer. The holes should be backfilled and the stones removed to achieve this.
- Reviving God's Acre - The intention this year is to let areas of the churchyard grow so that we can identify the wild flowers by survey. These areas will then be mown to allow people to walk through the churchyard and access graves but the intention is to allow the wild flowers to grow and develop. This will encourage insects, birds and small mammals into the churchyard. Some areas of the churchyard will be closely mown and a schedule for mowing will be developed. A plan will be produced and forwarded to PCC members showing the cut and uncut areas. Plant identification will be added to the plan as the season progresses.

Paul Laws  
Churchwarden