

Report to of Holy Trinity, Rolleston to Rolleston Parish Council for the year to March 2024

It is now 12 months since our vicar, Phil White retired. We have been waiting throughout this period for action from our archdeacon to prepare for the appointment of a new incumbent for the benefice.

Much to our annoyance the archdeacon and her colleagues are still very slowly working on an idea to reorganise the administration of parishes. This would include the appointment of a specialist to take on administration of care of church buildings. Apparently many clergy spend a considerable amount of their time on such matters, rather than pastoral duties. The PCC deal with matters here.

The decision as to what to do is taking an excessive length of time. Despite pressure, nothing further has happened.

The statutory quinquennial survey of the church building was undertaken during the last year. There were a number of action points made by the architect, but apart from clearing plant growth from gulleys, there was nothing urgent required: the vast majority was routine building maintenance needing attention during the next few years.

The church property is all in good order. The Rolleston Pewter is still on display at the Civil War Museum, and a clock is in the care of the Museum of Timekeeping.

The Parochial Church Council has met regularly throughout the year, and meetings are held in a spirit of cooperation and good humour, and thus are very productive. Similarly, Benefice Council meetings are a helpful way for bonds to be retained between the different churches: they work well.

We are very grateful for the work David Hanson puts in organising services in the benefice and for leading many of them in his role as Reader.

Sadly we normally have only one service a month at present in our church, a state that is likely to continue while we don't have an incumbent. Online services continue to be popular, however, with a 9am service each Sunday and Compline on Wednesdays at 7pm both of which are well attended.

The churchyard is in generally good condition, but it costs a considerable amount of money to keep it so. In 2023 we spent over £3000 on general maintenance and £1800 on dealing with storm damage to trees. This is on top of our normal maintenance programme. We appreciate the contribution made by the Parish Council, but would remind everybody that costs increase regularly with inflation.