

DURC AGM Deacon's report. 2014

We started the year with a rather small team four deacons and one observer. This was further depleted when one deacon decided to resign. We co-opted one new member to the group and two other ex deacons in an advisory role to provide some continuity that was missing. We look forward to next year with Danny and Eddie joining as deacons, also Jeanette will be co-opted as Secretary subject to ratification from the Elders. This will give us a much stronger team to face the considerable challenges in dealing with the fabric of the buildings.

May I take this opportunity to thank Dan for his services as he retires as deacon at this meeting.

The deacons have continued this year to deal with day to day snags as they arise.

Our major concern this year has been preparing the Manse for letting in the interregnum. This is now complete and tenants should be installed by the time of this meeting. The renovations to the manse have been quite extensive on a mostly cosmetic level as the whole place was looking rather tired. The manse has attracted a good rental and this should cover what we have paid for the renovations and there may be some surplus to pay for more major replacements before a new minister is installed.

Because of Eddie's expertise we have detected some major faults with church hall, which were outlined at the last congregational meeting. The first thing to be dealt with on this large and potentially expensive list is to correct the felting of the roof that was incorrectly installed, this is under warranty but the firm responsible has moved away from Plymouth. We are still working on finding someone to admit liability. All of these problems are because of the age of the building; it's method of construction and short comings in the original scheme.

I must say I had no idea of the huge scope of work that the deaconate has to deal with when I took on this task. May I make an appeal on behalf of all the deacons please be patient with us! We are volunteers in this task in just the same way as many other volunteers who give a great deal of time and expertise to allow this church to function.

Deacons have just the same right as anyone else to come to church and be allowed to worship in peace and not be bombarded by various queries and moans as they arrive on Sunday morning.

We intend to set up some system of faults list so congregation members can make a report and then they can be dealt with in an orderly fashion and at a suitable time.

We will continue to preserve and improve the buildings for use, to seek the best value way of achieving this that may not always be the cheapest; but in a way that will not store up problems for the future.