“Thank you’s” from our Annual Meeting 3.March 2024

My thanks, first and foremost, are to Richard and to Kim for everything they have done for us in the last 12 months. This is not, I think, the day to dwell either on Richard’s achievements or on Kim’s alarmingly heavy workload, just a very sincere thank you to them both.

Thank-yous to everyone else are based on my gradual recognition of the many people who cover their own particular niche zone to ensure that this Church functions pretty well. This ranges from Rose Hughes with her team of cleaners, keeping us presentable, Liz Squire with her team of baristas and tea makers to quench our thirst, Louise McMIchael with her florists to keep us attractive, Martin Whittaker with his ringers to encourage us to come here...Then there are the not-so-obvious behind the scenes such as Anne Harris, who ensures two readers for every main Sunday service, Sarah Eagle with her supply of essential breads, wine and candles.... the list goes on. How could I not mention Jon Prior, quietly collecting the money, banking it somewhere and recording the funds, as well as looking after all our costs, for example, our use of energy. No such list would be complete without naming Janet Steele whose work on the door and counting the collection, not forgetting her refreshment duties, is typical of a number of parishioners in quietly keeping the church alive and functioning. And how could I not thank Alison Lewis and Rosie Padmore for their first Sundays in the month ? And Harry, the best organist in the deanery, (in my humble opinion) for almost every service.

Then, finally, may I come to Rosemarie. I am pleased that Jon Prior’s records agree with mine that Rosemarie has been a churchwarden for us since at least 2007, making her tenure of the post a fantastic 17 years ! This is in direct contravention of the Churchwardens Measure of 2001 - the limit is supposed to be a mere 6 years - but In so serving and by her loyalty, constant attendance and determination to keep going as long as possible, I know you will agree with me that Rosemarie has set an example to us all and I also know she will continue to help the Wardens wherever she can. Thank you Rosemarie. Please accept these presents as a very small recognition of what you have done for us all. Our Warden Emeritus, Anne, has just recently decided to resign from the PCC so an era is ending and we have some flowers for her also, real ones this time, Anne.