

February 2022 Edition

I am back on the road again . It is not that I have lost my driving licence but rather I am visiting Historical Societies and other groups such as the Probus Club at Melbourne. Under the auspices of Chairman John Williams, the Club welcomed me at The Thomas Cook Mission Hall in Melbourne with coffee and sausage baps before I proceeded to give the Group my talk on 'Tissington-Its Past Present & Future'. In a normal year I give about eight talks mainly in the Midlands to similar groups but have been asked as far afield as Stratford, London and Dublin. It is an amusing way to get the Tissington' message' out there and I have made a lot of contacts over the years. If your Society is looking for a speaker then please do get in touch by email .

In my tenure in the village over the last 32 years we have had 5 Incumbents as Vicar to St Mary's, our gorgeous Norman Church that sits resplendent by the pond overlooking the Village. In December we said goodbye to our latest one, Rev Carollyn McDonald who has completed five years of ministry in the self -named 'Peak Five' making up the parishes of Alsop, Fenny Bentley, Parwich, Thorpe and Tissington. After a flurry of Christmas Services we all gathered on Boxing Day Sunday at St Edmund's Fenny Bentley for Carollyn's final service. During her five years she has looked after our five parishes with resolution and aplomb. For Tissington she has married over 50 couples , baptised fifteen children and taken a further twenty funerals. She also introduced Sunday evening services on Zoom as we battled the pandemic. We all wish her well in her retirement to Northumberland.

The Whitehurst clock on the Stable block was installed in 1738 for Sir William (the father of the first Baronet) by John Whitehurst of Derby. We have a routine that someone winds it up every Monday and every Thursday. Sometime during the Christmas and New Year the chimes came out of sequence and the clock was chiming one hour faster than it was showing. This caused no particular consternation in the village over the festive period but it was urgently fixed once the holidays were over. Interesting there is a silver plaque on the timepiece that says it was repaired in AD 1849 by John Whitehurst , Great Nephew of the above for sir Henry the Third Baronet. And it is still going a further 173 years later! Magnificent.

Readers will recall my reports of the gate Piers that adorn the entrance to the Estate off the main Ashbourne to Buxton road. Having been desecrated in September 2020 by a large milk tanker it has taken 16 months to get the insurance approved, locate the mason and for him to locate the stone (indeed rather a tricky task in this Covid-ridden year) and for finally the gate piers to be replaced! We all gave a sigh of relief as they were finished just before Christmas even after the north pier had been damaged one evening after the masons had left work. However... I am sure readers will guess what happened next in the first week of January an errant tractor hit the south gate pier as it entered the village. How long will it take before all the local authorities combine to reassess this gateway? It was designed and built in the 18th century before the motor car and lorry were invented and the gate piers need to be set back a further ten metres towards the village for access and safety reasons. However, I fear my request will fall on deaf ears.

From time to time we rearrange the furniture and pictures in some of the show rooms in the Hall. Just before Christmas David Walker and his team 'pimped' up our bar (usually in good fettle at weddings) and also changed the layout in the two Drawing Rooms on the first floor. As a result we have better light in the darker East Drawing Room and a far more attractive lit cabinet showing off various pieces of china collected by the family over the years. Also , in the west, we moved the

piano. I did not give this much thought as the rooms looked far better except when I gave my first tour of the year and found that my voice was different....the reason? The rug had been removed and so my voice echoed around the room without the rug to absorb the sound! It looks like I am in the market for a rather large new rug!! Progress?

NB new email sirrichard@tissingtonhall.co.uk

Photo Rev Carollyn outside Fenny Bentley Church with constituents
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