**ST MARY’S CHURCH**

**LETTER FROM THE RECTOR**

What a summer we have had! Two weeks of endless Sun making us compare it to 1976 [if you are too young for that reference ask your parents!] which makes me realise how old I am getting… A couple of weeks is nothing compared to the 56 days of no rain back then. We have however seen the effects of that Sun all around us. The gardens of Gardens Sunday were still amazing reflecting the extra hard work of keeping everything watered. Lawns looked tired however and they were not the only thing tiring.

The churchyard grass at Rolleston has been cared for over the years by many and varied retirees and a couple of the current batch are feeling their years; which begs the question, how do we care for a churchyard that will not stop growing grass!

One suggestion might be to level many of the headstones or erect them at the edges of the churchyard so that it would making grass cutting easier rather than having to work around closely erected headstones.

Another long-term solution that some churches take might be to officially close the churchyard and invite the Parish Council to take on responsibility for its upkeep, but this may mean extra spending by the Parish Council which would have a knock-on-effect as to their expenditure on the village’s behalf.

Another suggestion is to simply cut around the outside edges and allow the grass towards the central areas of the Churchyard grow naturally into a wild-life meadow which might be nature-friendly but would mean that some graves would be hard to get to and might also make the area look untidy.

More ‘wellingtons on the ground’ on a regular basis would mean we could continue to cut the churchyard grass to an acceptable level. Mowing machines and strimmer’s we have, training & safety equipment is provided, grass there is a plenty, but we would need your volunteer hours at a time to suit you.

If you can comment and let us know your thoughts about the future of the churchyard or to volunteer some of your hours to help keep on top of the grass, please get in touch with me or one of the Church Wardens.

With every blessing for the rest of the Summer! Ian Whitehead, Rector

**PASTORAL REORGANISATION**

What’s that all about then? For the past couple of years the Parish Church of Tutbury has been cared for by myself as the Rector in addition to the long-standing union of Rolleston with Anslow. The time has come for this to be made a legal fact with a scheme to would see Rolleston, Anslow & Tutbury churches united under the responsibility of one Rector who would reside in Rolleston.

Whilst this has been discussed at some length by the Churches and Church Councils it now is in the area of inviting comment and representation from the wider Parish before this scheme for reorganisation would go before the Queen for official assent.

The scheme is too long and too ‘legalised’ to reproduce here in the Rollestonian but should any parishioner wish to view the scheme and comment a copy can be seen in any of the three churches concerned, Rolleston -Anslow – Tutbury, also at the Thursday Coffee Mornings in the Old Grammar School Room or by contacting the Rector or Church Wardens. We will do our best to explain the scheme and implications and where to you might want to make representation.

Ian Whitehead, Rector