**How Hill Trust**

A strange year indeed, with no usual income whatsoever!  Below are a few words that can be used as my 'report' if you feel it appropriate.

With no schools since March 2020, and the majority of staff still furloughed, it has been a very strange year indeed.

with the house being empty, we have taken the opportunity to undertake much needed repairs to the house. All the flat roofs have been replaced, making the house fully watertight for the first time for many years; we have undertaken some decoration and, patio/terrace outside the sunroom has been relaid.  For parishioners familiar with this part of the property, you will be aware how uneven and dangerous the surface had become.  The paving slabs have all been removed, a reinforced base  installed and the slabs re-laid.  This coming summer, we are moving our tea room into the house, so this area will hopefully become a focal point for visitors to sit and enjoy the view whilst enjoying a drink and home made cakes!

The pandemic has forced trustees to re-evaluate what we offer to residential visitors.  As we go forward, it is likely that en suite facilities will be increasingly demanded by schools.  Also, people’s expectations have changed and adults are no longer happy to share bathrooms and showers. Therefore, whilst the house is empty, the trustees are taking the the opportunity to widen the potential adaptability of the facilities.  Plans have been drawn up to make all bedrooms en-suite.  We are currently applying for listed building consent together with going out to tender.  The trustees will make the final decision once we have all the figures to hand.

Despite the total lack of residential visitors, both the house gardens and secret gardens have been open for the last year and both will remain open until we have schools return, which will hopefully be during the Autumn term.  The car park (and the gardens)  have been, and will remain, free to visit. That said, people have been very generous with their donations and, on behalf of my trustees, can I thank all parishioners for their support over the past year - the support is greatly appreciated.

I would like to say I am extremely confident that How Hill will come through the pandemic and enforced closure, and will continue to offer an exciting educational experience to schools and adults for many years to come, together with being a special place for parishioners to continue to visit and enjoy.