

## **St John's Fabric Report 2019**

No report is complete without a series of 'thank you's' and this is no exception. Our church building and hall require regular tending and we are blessed with a select group of people ready and able to meet our needs. These include Steve Osborn, Steve Withers, Paul Tucker, Peter Ballard and Annie and Bob Silver but there are others. They are such a talented group and whether it be sorting out the heating, mending the electrics, fixing a door, changing a light bulb or just working out what is wrong, we are so grateful for their patience and generosity of time and effort.

The 'Love Your Church' days expand this little band and we cannot thank you enough if you joined in the cleaning either the inside or the outside or both. The results of scrubbing, brushing, digging or steaming (to name just a few of the jobs) were a true reflection of the efforts put in and were a real act of worship.

As a result of all these people and events we have:

- tidied the boundary between ourselves and our neighbours
- weeded the planters
- cleaned the windows
- cleared between the paving stones
- sorted the shed
- swept the paths

Plus so much more outside.

Then in the church:

- steam cleaned the carpets
- steam cleaned the chairs
- washed, buffed and polished the floor
- cleaned by the organ
- cleaned by the sound system

Not to mention sorting out the loft in the hall!

On a safety front, we would like to thank Chaz Smith for his Health and Safety Quick Reference Guide which we have now adopted. We are sure he could answer all your queries on this area but actions this year included having the alarms checked and the heating system serviced. Shortly the electrical devices will be checked again.

Our Remembrance Garden continues to be maintained by Hilary Ageros, whilst Peter Ballard and his mowing team have kept the grass in check around the church – so yet more thanks. Peter has also made it his mission to sort out the bins- we are gradually understanding the rota!

Having said all this, there are still others who have played their part, be it electrically or supplying essential goods and we could go on. Please accept our thanks, St. John's is a better place for all your contributions.

We continue to be very proud of the part our hall plays in the community and the addition of the amazing frieze this year is an incredible opportunity to spread God's word in a visual form. Many thanks to Nikki Bridgman for this beautiful piece of artwork which has enhanced

the building so well. The hall plays an important role in our outreach and we encourage people to not only help us maintain it but also advertise it as the excellent facility that it is.

### **Archdeacon Fiona's Visitation**

Last July, we received a visit from Archdeacon Fiona as under church law she is required to inspect these areas: Worship, Mission, Governance, Finance, Ministry, Environment, Records, Property, Safety and Safeguarding. Following a lengthy questionnaire, we then discussed these areas and she went away to write a report.

This was part of her response:

It was a pleasure to spend time with you and your team last Friday, the tea was fabulous! Thank you for your time and for filling out the copious forms! I do hope you will pass on my thanks to all those that spend hours cleaning the church, arranging flowers, and maintaining the church inside and out so beautifully, it is an outstandingly kept church. Also a joy to see that you regularly have church 'tidy up' days. All of this just doesn't happen, it takes many hours and much effort by dedicated and faithful men and women. I am so grateful.

When people visit or simply walk past, or pop in you are expressing hospitality and care as it is evident that the Christian witness Christ through the church is very much alive. Your welcome in the church for visitors is exceptional as is the mission of your church with clear signage and a brilliant mural. All of this shows that the church is alive and well and very much open for business.

### **Quinquennial**

Every five years, we are required to have the fabric of the church building inspected. This is carried out by an architect appointed by the church. We were a little overdue our inspection, for a number of reasons, but, having finally received a list of possible architects, we arranged for the inspection in February. The architect loved our church but, as we write this, we are still awaiting his report.

### **Renewal Project**

Many thanks to Bob Silver for his diligent work on this over the year. The Renewal Project has been running for nearly three years now and has three principal aims:

- To replace the existing timber window frames of the church with energy-efficient, low maintenance glazed curtain walling
- To build a link between the church and the hall to integrate both buildings, provide another meeting room, a safe children's play area and an inviting welcoming space for the church congregation and our local community
- To become an Eco-Church and in all that means for sustainability, energy conservation and life-style

Following Paddy's retirement and the consequent interregnum, the Archdeacon's Parish Review and an outstanding quinquennial inspection the project has a much-needed breathing space but it continues to be supported in prayer.

*Anne Mellor and Liz New, Wardens*