

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, TURTON
CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL FABRIC AND
ORNAMENT REPORT 2021-2022

GENERAL

Again, this has been an unusual year but unfortunately as I reported to recent PCC meetings many items cannot be deferred or postponed indefinitely as we have a duty as custodians to keep matters in good order.

Issues raised by the Quinquennial Report that has been issued by the Church Architect together with matters from the Insurance Risk Assessors (we had a visit from the EIG surveyor a couple of years ago), have had to be pushed back, but this has been done in agreement with both the Diocese and the insurers. Issues from the Quinquennial Report are mainly minor and are very much in line with the report from five years ago.

I have continued to monitor the Fire Risk Assessment that I carried out recently to ensure this is up to date and various measures have been introduced to put matters in place to make us compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Last year we were fortunate enough to be awarded a grant of £9450, based on people's mental health and wellbeing. This was a Lottery Grant that has been introduced in an attempt to counter the devastating effects of the pandemic. The approval was based roughly on external works and we included disabled access to the memorial garden and the creation of allotments to the rear of church. This has been a huge success and all allotment plots were snatched up straightaway. This year a couple of plots have been handed back but we have a healthy waiting list and plots are eagerly sought after.

The works to create a level access into the Memorial Garden was completed as is the work to level those areas that were lifting due to the effect of tree roots. This has been followed up by a scheme to refurbish the planting in the memorial garden as many of the roses had died. This is currently underway and has been financed by contributions. Michael Arundel has done a great job in coordinating this work for which we are very thankful.

The sit-on mower that was purchased from the grant monies has been a useful addition to the gardening team in tackling the large grassed areas throughout the churchyard.

We are also applying for a "landfill" grant to cover major items, namely, repairs to main lychgate; repairs to the stained glass windows, replacement of the boiler and repairs to the clock mechanism. I am hopeful that this will be approved later this year. We have successfully passed Stage 1 of the application. These works are generally works identified in the last Quinquennial Report.

EXTERIOR

Boundary walls are generally in good order. We recently had a section of the wall collapse but this has now been repaired.

Paths & Pavings

All pathways are generally in good order, although some areas of Tarmac are breaking up. The gardening team have treated areas which had excessive moss growth.

Churchyard

The churchyard continues to look in first class condition and many thanks, as always, must go to the churchyard working party for their sterling work, who continues to meet on Saturday mornings throughout the year.

One item that we need to keep on top of is that some headstones, particularly the crosses, can become loose. I have surveyed all the headstones and a number, although not in immediate risk of falling over, do need attention and it is the intention to fix these securely during the coming year.

We have reviewed our lawn mower collection and now only have power driven mowers as the 'push type' were becoming too difficult to handle for some members. We were fortunate that an appeal went some way to covering the costs of this streamlining.

Main Building

During the year we have had another major roof leak and this has brought down part of the ceiling in the gallery. This was due to freak weather conditions but it does remain an issue that rainwater outlets on each of the side elevations are insufficient for the large roof area we have (this has been pointed out in Quinquennial Reports over the years). I intend to deal with the re-plastering when and if we get the landfill grant approved.

As reported in the last annual report the matter with our lightning conductor and insurers has now been resolved and the PCC have agreed that we will only carry out the maintenance at 4-yearly intervals, as recommended by the British Standard and also in agreement with our insurers.

As reported previously, to comply with latest legislation we had a surge protection survey carried out on our electrical system to comply with the requirements of BSEN62305 (Lightning Conductor Requirements) and the risk assessment identifies suggested we need surge protection providing and the quote for this is £675 +vat. I consider we are in a "low risk category" as far as this is concerned and we decided at a recent PCC to hold on this work until more funds are available, if indeed we do it all.

INTERIOR

No further progress has been made on repairs to the organ following the various reports carried out to see what we need to do to refurbish it. It has been agreed by the PCC that we will wait till after the determination of the Landfill Grant. As reported previously we had a visit from the Church of England's Historical Building Council's Organ Advisor due to the fact that we have a very unique "Father" Willis organ and it is possible we may get a grant to refurbish. The Faculty approval for this has again lapsed and the DAC want us to reapply. I have met with a representative of Harrison and Harrison the organ builders, and the cost for total refurbishment would be in the region of £100,000. The instrument would need to be taken away to Durham and a total time of six months would be needed for the necessary work. I suggest we don't reapply for a Faculty until we are clearer how and if we can deal with this major work and expenditure. Serious consideration would have to be given as to how this work could be funded. There are also other more local organ repairers who will be interested in this work but we need to decide how we wish to take this forward as this is such a big repair item.

There has been major faults identified with the clock mechanism and these are identified and costed in the aforementioned Landfill Grant.

We have had issues over the past year with uplighters failing and we are looking to change the fittings to LED fittings when each one fails.

During the year we were forced into replacing the boiler, as it was certainly on its last legs. We obtained a Faculty and tendered the works and Joule Property Services Ltd, were instructed to proceed and they completed the replacement of the boiler during the summer. We now have a 'balanced' heating system which responds to external and internal temperatures so we have a constant temperature inside the building.

Furnishings

Altar plates, altar frontals, silverware, hymnbooks, prayer books and bibles are all in good condition.

Thanks are due to all who ensure that the standard of cleaning in our church is kept up to the high standard that we have become accustomed, and particularly for the extra measures required due to the pandemic.

Stephen Hobson

Churchwarden Emeritus April 2022