

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments for the APCM 26th April 2020

I am pleased to report that the condition of the Church building continues to be satisfactory together with our property, Cowell House, which is being let to a very happy tenant through Russell Property as our agent and which has allowed us to recoup all the refurbishment expenses in 2018. All necessary inspections, maintenance visits and certifications for the Church, Cowell House and Windhill Churches Centre have been carried out and any recommendations have been attended to. All insurances have been reviewed and renewed.

Work that has been carried out during the last 12 months included:

John Steward, now our archivist, has identified all the tombstones in the churchyard and has diligently provided shelving in the upstairs store room for much of our historical items. We also, have a regular display in the WCC for parishioners and visitors to view a lot of our photos and mementos. A kind bellringer has repaired and restrained all the benches around the Church and attended to a damaged bench in the Interment area, plus the small stools in the Lady Chapel. Work on the Quinquennial began in May and continued ad hoc throughout the summer but with little disruption from Lodges, our builders, to whom we are most grateful and with the project being below our anticipated budget we have been able to have the SPD (surge protection device) installed to the main supply input, and shortly much needed work on the cracks in the lead on the Spire and pointing problems on the Tower will be carried out.

After the Quinquennial was finished we were pleased to have our long awaited pew cushions placed throughout the Church and, despite a few queries, these have been warmly welcomed together with a disabled toilet in the ground floor of the Tower.

Radiator valves have been replaced and the air system checked by Margles who now hold in stock various parts to deal with any startup problems which have happened in the past.

Sadly, a break in occurred at the end of February which has caused a lot of heartache – and headache. The vandals caused a widespread amount of damage but only stole a few items and were, subsequently and easily caught as they sold the small pieces of silver to Zelleys, jewellers, in Market Square! However, as there are other incidents to be considered the case is still with the CPS and the police are keeping us up to date with developments. We were blessed that the DAC and insurers rallied very quickly and we thank Derwyn for returning from his half term break to lead us prayerfully in going forward to get back to normal as soon as possible and the local community were also very supportive. Most of the damaged goods have now been dealt with other than the renewing of the stained glass in the South Porch. Thankfully everything else was covered by insurance, other than £500 excess on our policy and this sum was covered by an online donation project. We received a considerable fee from our Architect which our Insurers are not prepared to fully meet and we are currently in discussion with them. We will also need to contribute a small amount for the enhanced protection to the repaired inner Vestry door.

May I express my thanks once again to the Fabric Committee, particularly to Philip Smith without whose help and support I could not possibly manage this part of my role, and also to Terry Pigram for his regular maintenance work both in and around the Church and the WCC and also to the many volunteers who spend their spare time helping at the work parties during the year.

Rosemary Thomson, Churchwarden