

# Churchwarden's Fabric Report for 2025

## Faculties

### **Re-ordering of church interior:-**

We have had a visitation by a delegation from the DAC (Deanery Advisory Committee), to see the church for themselves and discuss our plans for modification of the interior. They went away quite happy with our plans, with a few suggestions, to report back to the full DAC.

We needed to supply some photos of previous interiors of the church, and our plans for chairs to replace existing pews.

### **Blinds for windows on south wall:-**

We have the faculty and one has been fitted to the wall, by the supplier. However, it was found that fixings were not strong enough to support the blind and we now need to affix battens first. Due to problems accessing the wall above the pews, we need to reassess in 2026.

## Quinquennial Report:-

The 5 yearly Quinquennial report has been carried out and a number of issues reported.

Issues needing immediate attention included:-

1. Temporarily seal holed slates on Porch, pending reslating within 2 years.
2. Remove Ivy from base of southeast buttress.

I have attended to these issues.

Issues needing attention within 12 months include:-

1. Work on roof flashings.
2. Replacing broken tiles on Chancel roof, along with removal of moss.
3. Bell tower:- De-rust and repaint ladder and bell frame.

Cost estimate = £3,000

Issues needing attention over next 2 years, include:-

1. South Porch, roof work
2. Vestry, roof work and stonework
3. Nave, roof work and stonework
4. Porch, stonework and redecorate
5. North Aisle, stonework, flooring and removal of timber screen.
6. Main aisle, flooring

Cost estimate = £23,000

Issues needing attention over Quinquennial period, include:-

1. Replacing gutters
2. Bells, overhaul fixings and bearings
3. Boundary fencing, repair and redecorate
4. De-rust and repaint porch gates, and related stonework.
5. General Housekeeping, including re-plastering, re-decorating, clearing unwanted items and removal of carpets

Cost estimate = £10,000

These are recommendations by the Architect and some of these works would be undertaken during church re-ordering.

### **Other items**

1. Plasterwork to ceiling at Chancel/Main Aisle joint, has broken up and will need re-plastering.
2. The Drum kit that we have in church now, needs to be purchased.  
Stuart Laws who has kindly loaned it to us, for no cost for a number of years, has decided that he no longer needs it. He has offered to sell it to us first before putting it on the open market.  
Update:- We have now purchased this with generous gifts from 2 benefactors, which covered the full cost.
3. The Subwoofer that was located under the sound desk was stolen during the year, and has had to be replaced from PCC funds.
4. Bee swarm. We consulted a local the National Beekeepers Association about these, but were informed that as Bee's were nesting in the void fabric of the church and as it is a listed building, we would need to get contractors in to access the nest or block off the gaps. This could be done along with other works required under the Quinquennial report and will be looked at in 2026.
5. The oil heating system in the Rectory failed its annual inspection and no longer worked and has been replaced by a gas boiler. The pipework has also been replaced.
6. New tenant agreements at Harvest House were signed attracting a steady income of £12k per year. This helps us, gives the tenants beautiful spaces to work from, and makes good use of the building to bless our communities.
7. Kitchen crockery at Harvest House was replenished in order to be able to fulfill bookings for 36 places. The fencing at Harvest House has also been repaired.

## **Churchyard**

With help from our parish council, we maintain the parish burial ground. We are grateful to it for a £1000 grant as a contribution towards the cost last year. The Churchyard is nearing its capacity. It is estimated it will be full within 2 years and then will need to be closed, unless new ground can be acquired. If it were closed, the Parish Council would become the legal burial authority (or the South Norfolk District Council if the Parish Council is unwilling or unable to take it on). The Council is aware of the issue.

The PCC have been discussing options for the future, including:-

1. Moving and redistributing the soil heaps, from burials, around the confines of the churchyard to free up more space. A good start has been made on this by Andy De'ath, who has been volunteering his services for free. Andy has also used the piles of cut brushwood to make up some Dead Hedging which also encourages wildlife diversity in the churchyard.
2. Looking into extending the current extension. We have received an offer of additional land, but this is connected to plans for a housing development.

We still have an owl box to install in the churchyard, which will probably need to be postponed til Spring 2026. This has since been installed with the help of some willing volunteers.

We undertook a memorial inspection during the year and a number of headstones were found to be unsecured to the sub-bases. Following Diocesan guidelines, these headstones were marked off with hazard tape and notices attached regarding repairs required within 3 months, and church contact details attached. Attempts were made to trace family members and inform them, but we could only find contact information for one. This has subsequently been repaired, but no contact was made concerning others, so these headstones have been laid flat on ground as per Diocesan safety guidelines.

## **Thank You's**

A big thank you to Adrian and the ministry team for their leadership this year.

N.B As you all know now, Adrian has left us and is moving on to another stage in his life, and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him and his family all the best, wherever the Lord leads them in the future.

A big thank you to all who came to the churchyard conservation mow and rake, it was really good to have so many people participating, from the village.

As usual a big thank you to the Flower team, whose sterling work has brightened our church through the various seasons

A big thank you to Andy De'ath for all his voluntary work in the churchyard, and also Harvest House, where he has done a great job of repairing the gates and fencing, and also general gardening. It has lightened my workload!!

And finally, a big thank you to all of you, for supporting me through another year. It looks like I will need even more support in 2026

Tim Hayward - Churchwarden