

Churchwarden's Fabric report for 2023

Church

Electrical report & work

Following the 5 yearly electrical safety inspection (EICR), a number of issues were identified which needed to be rectified to achieve a satisfactory rating.

- 1) 2 x Consumer units needed upgrading, as RCD's faulty or not present.
 - a) These were replaced with new units.
- 2) Pew heaters had no local isolation switches.
 - a) Pew heaters disconnected or removed, as Air source heating sufficient.
- 3) Lighting controlled from circuit breakers, could cause failure
 - a) New separate lighting switch unit installed by main door.
- 4) Various lights not working.
 - a) As part of Eco Church Initiative, it was decided to upgrade interior lighting and exterior floodlighting to LED, which would use less energy and save on running costs.

Terrier & Inventory

No new items to add to Terrier (list of land owned by church) or Inventory (list of moveable items owned by church) presented at last APCM.

Foodbank storage

New Foodbank storage units purchased with a grant from Mulbarton Parish News and fitted in church porch, with extra storage for feminine hygiene products. This made for easier and discreet access for donation and use. Also thanks due to WI for kind financial donation to help keep food pantry stocked.

Prayer Space

Following the decision to utilise more rooms in Harvest House for private rental, it was decided to move the prayer room to a prayer space in the back of the church. This also made the prayer resources available to all, who wished to make use of them. From feedback received, this has been a popular move.

Thank you to all who helped with move and set up.

Blinds

Faculty applied for the addition of blinds to south side windows x3, to remove direct sunlight from sound desk and other areas during services.

This is ongoing due to problems sourcing blinds that would meet DAC and our requirements, also costs.

Interior reorganisation

Redevelopment Needs and Significance Statements passed on to architect, who is working on papers to support or application. This is for the possible addition of a toilet, kitchen area and re-organisation of interior of church.

Main Quinquennial Issues

- 1) Restoration of the font and possible re-sighting.
- 2) Restoration of porch.
- 3) Church flooring in poor condition and in need of repair with removal of grids.
- 4) Gutters and downpipes on the south side are now considered inadequate for current rainfall estimates (the north side having been upgraded in 2017)
- 5) Areas of plaster and stone replacement inside and out.
- 6) Removal of all carpets throughout the church to reduce moisture retention.

There was also some discussion as to how the internal reordering of the church might take place with a view to many of the above items being addressed as part of that process.

Churchyard

Path

The proposed church path took shape and was mostly finished, thanks to some great community spirit from everybody who turned up for the Coronation Big Help Out Day. Although some remedial work was needed due to over-exuberance. Finishing off has run over into 2024.

Fence

The church fencing which was in need of cleaning and repainting was also carried out with help on the community day and other volunteers afterwards. Thanks to all who gave their time and energy!!

Fence posts

Upon inspection some of the fencing and post was showing signs of deterioration. In view of the high cost of replacing, it was decided to get Daniel Morriss to trial a repair system on some rails and a post. This was done and will be examined in 2024 to see if this will be a viable alternative going forward.

Tree Survey

I realised that a survey of the state of the trees in churchyard had not been carried out for some years at least, so we commissioned a professional Arboricultural Consultant.

The received survey identified several dead trees that needed felling and others that needed remedial work. I then got in tenders for the work to be done from 4 companies and once the PCC agreed on the winning tender, work took place in 2024.

Memorial Cherry tree

A request was received for us to consider a memorial tree to be placed in churchyard for all those who had lost unborn babies. The PCC agreed to this. A faculty was applied for.

Memorial bench

The PCC decided to install a Memorial bench in the churchyard for Jack & Elsie Page, funded from the designated fund, however a gift was received for a memorial bench which would cover cost. A faculty was applied for.

Commonwealth War grave sign

It was thought by the PCC that a War Graves Plaque should be displayed on the churchyard fencing denoting that there was a war grave in our churchyard. Heather Wells liased with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and they took on sorting of Faculty.

Eco-Church Initiative

The PCC decided to take part in the Eco Church Initiative with biodiversity in churchyard to follow installation of LED lighting and Air Source heating in church. Heather Wells asked the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to come and do a survey and they agreed to come and undertake a survey. We await results, so we can decide how best to move forward on this.

Roof alarm

Following on from numerous call outs for alarm operating in strong winds, the suppliers engineer remounted a sensor only to have it come loose again. It was diagnosed that sensor was fixed into mortar joint as it could not be fitted into stonework without permission, this was obtained from Archdeacon. Since then no more false alarms have resulted.

P.s It has to be noted that a lot of faculties have been delayed, due to ill health of the Archdeacon.