

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND GOODS OF THE CHURCH – MARCH 2021

St Oswald's has had another unprecedented period of lockdown and only a few months have passed since our last APCM and report in October. Despite that, we have kept the grounds, buildings and contents in good order. We hope that our regular, organised worship and other activities will resume soon.

Christmas saw the second use of our new crib and nativity figures in church, with thanks to Mark Saunders, who also procured our lovely tree. Thanks also to those who displayed their own nativity figures.

We have submitted our faculty application to re-order the church interior layout to the final registration stage, which is really just a formality, and hope to be able start the work to remove the side aisle pews in the near future, at an appropriate time.

A new water heater has been installed in the church kitchen, primarily for Café O, plus a new hard wired carbon monoxide detector for the boiler. The fixed wire testing in the Church and hall are in progress and we have also had smart meters installed for the electrical supply to the church and hall, with thanks to Des Sedgwick and Guy Parks for organising.

The generosity of donations from church members also allowed us to take the opportunity to replace the old hall boiler with a Veissmann VIT100 30kw system condensing boiler, which also has a weather compensation sensor for automatic frost protection. We hope it will prove to be more economical and environmentally friendly. We have also replaced the plates on the spur connections for the fan heaters for safety. Once again, thanks to Des Sedgwick and the team who oversaw this.

As the hall has not been used as much recently and following an inspection by Guy Parks, we postponed the floor surface treatment which was planned for August, it will be done again when necessary. The roof above the jubilee room and porch has been cleared of moss and the cooker cleaned, with thanks to Karen Pryse for organising. Guy Parks has given the external doors some attention as they have been "sticking".

Our cleaner continues to deal with the basic cleaning tasks of both the church and hall to a good standard, apart from a short suspension last April and May during the first lockdown. We postponed the usual clean-up mornings due to the latest Covid-19 lockdown, but hope to resume them around Easter as conditions permit. All ages and abilities are welcome with jobs suitable for everyone, with teas and coffees and biscuits, so please come along if you can. Thanks also to all those on the summer grass cutting rota who help keep the church surroundings smart and tidy.

In the coming year we will have a quinquennial survey of the fabric of the church undertaken, as required by the diocese.

Steve Carpenter and Maurice Lisle

xx March, 2021