

## **Fabric at St Mark's. Report to the St Mark APCM, May 2022**

Fabric (i.e. buildings and fixtures) issues are the responsibility of the PCC. St Mark's church is a grade 2\* listed building (the original building only) which brings extra responsibilities for its care and maintenance and means more processes to go through if any changes or repairs are proposed. This mainly means that for most work, permission has to be sought and approved by a 'faculty', or at least by archdeacon's permission. The newer hall section can be freely worked on.

As previously reported, in April 2020, our 5 yearly quinquennial inspection of the church, not the hall, was carried out by the architect. (The report is available for any church member if interested).

There were no surprises in the report, but there was a reiteration of the coming need (within 5years) for major stonework repairs, some glazing repairs and the 'eventual' need for major roof repairs. Funding for these issues is a concern.

During the Covid pandemic, our buildings were little used until spring 2021 when the midweek and evening services restarted, and mid 2021 when the 10.00 service returned to the church. The hall facilities also started to be used again.

No significant work has been carried out on the church fabric during the year other than general maintenance. However there are some current issues being attended to: some stone work is needed around one of the front heating vents; and we are investigating the implications of an inspection of the pinnacles and gargoyles, as required soon by the quinquennial report.

Some tree work was carried out in the main garden, as reported last year.

The hall also has had little work done. Current issues being addressed include some repairs to the roof over the kitchen, and a review of the fire exit doors in the hall.

In December, we had a report prepared by the diocesan heating advisor. This is in preparation for a possible failure of the church heating system (the heaters are getting near to their end of life) and looking ahead to the need to reduce carbon emissions substantially (the Church of England is looking to net zero by 2030). The conclusion is that it is quite difficult to significantly reduce emissions for church heating, though the hall areas will be easier to improve. The report is available to any member of the church who is interested.

One of the priorities of the Church Development Plan has been changed by the PCC: 'To assess the essential work that needs to be done on the church building and hall, in order to prioritise and inform sources of grant funding'. The architect's quinquennial inspection report is part of this, but a volunteer as a 'grants officer' would be very valuable.

Do ask if you would like more detail.

Notes by David Calvert, 10 May 2022