

Fabric at St Mark's. Report to the St Mark APCM, May 2025

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 community centre (the newer hall section) also needs authorisation for major work (because St Mark's PCC is not the legal owner). (In this report, references to church mean the listed original building, and community centre or hall means the 'new' hall, kitchen etc.)

Last year, we decided to arrange for our 5 yearly quinquennial inspection to be carried out a year early, along with a similar audit on the community centre. These reports are available for any church member if interested. These up-to-date reports are normally necessary for major grant applications.

The major items highlighted were as expected, and the PCC have agreed to focus on some items:

South Entrance Redevelopment: Improve disabled access by remodelling the slope and installing automatic doors, creating a fully accessible and welcoming entrance for all.

Rainwater goods repair: A programme of repair or replacement of guttering and downpipes which is essential to protect the building in the long term. The first area of work will be the around the missing downpipe which has caused damage to the internal plasterwork in the south east transept.

Community Centre Roof Repair: Secure funding and complete essential repairs to ensure this key space, especially the kitchen, remains usable for hospitality.

Work to gain approvals and grant applications has started.

In the longer term, we also need:

Work Towards Sustainability: energy efficiency, improve insulation, prepare for new heating systems, and take steps toward the Church of England's goal of carbon net zero by 2030. We have available an 'Energy & Net Zero Carbon Audit' (funded by the diocese) to guide us in this.

Work on the coming need for stonework repairs all round: starting with the East elevation; some glazing repairs and protection; and the eventual need for major roof repairs.

Meanwhile some essential work has been carried out during the year on some short term repairs to the north side of the nave roof; 5 yearly electrical inspection; a new notice board and chancel lighting.

Do ask if you would like more detail.

Notes by David Calvert, May 2025