

Churchwardens and Church Fabric Report 2023 (for APCM)

Having undertaken and completed major reordering works during 2022, it was appropriate to redecorate the entire church interior. This was carried out over several weeks in February 2023, during which time we continued to hold Sunday services in the church, with some imaginative use of the available space each week.

Later in the year a series of improvements to the AV system was made, including the installation of a new wooden cabinet to house the controls, as well as 3 strategically placed monitors for use by the ministry team, choir and servers during worship.

Other works of note during 2023:

- Replacing the disintegrating window blinds in the church room roof with new, electrically operated ones
- Replacing the temporary step at the South door with a purpose made oak timber one in keeping with the other new fittings and furniture
- Replacing a section of badly leaning brick wall in the Pastoral Centre with fencing. Also buttressing the remaining section
- Erecting two swift boxes to the north elevation church eaves
- Cleaning the War Memorial in the churchyard (paid for by the Bookham Residents Association)

Since the turn of the year, the broken drawers, work top and cupboards in the choir vestry were replaced with three new floor to ceiling storage cupboards, allowing better and more tidy use of space. In addition, a new oak cash donations box has been installed in the tower.

Other projects currently under consideration for 2024:

- The retiling and insulating of the new boiler house roof (previously known as the Sexton's shed)
- Re-roofing of the leaking gardeners shed

The PCC would also like to upgrade and refurbish the toilets in the church room. This is a significant project, which will require substantial fundraising, though we have already secured a small grant from the Jane Austen Society of North America to get us started.

The churchwardens and other members of the PCC are very grateful to the volunteers making up the Fabric Committee who oversee all this work as well as carry out the more routine tasks. We would also like to thank two members of the congregation for their technical expertise and input to the AV project.

The PCC is thankful for the generous grants from the Friends that paid for the new organ humidifier and the repair to the bottom of the window above the organ pipes. We are also grateful for the continued support of Mole Valley District Council for the maintenance of the churchyard.

Joy Lord
March 2024