

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

March 2025

Both John and I were elected to be Churchwardens at the APCM in 2024 and we were 'sworn in' when we met the Archdeacon in June. We were then both given a large bunch of keys each and I think we are still trying to work out what a few of them are for. Both of us have been attendees at St Pauls for less than two years and stepping into the vacant positions has given us both a steep learning curve, not least with getting to understand the language and bureaucracy particular to the Church of England.

The statutory safety requirements have been met with various items of routine maintenance including:

- The Organ has been serviced following the completion of the roof work
- Central Heating Serviced
- Fire Extinguishers checked and serviced
- Grounds maintenance
- Lightening conductor checked and serviced following the completion of the roof work
- Roof Alarm serviced
- Dishwasher Serviced
- Fumigation of the Cluster flies in the church

Roof Works

2024 saw the completion of the Church North Aisle roof repair and replacement project. As a church we have been very blessed by many people's generosity in enabling this essential maintenance work to be completed. As well as the project management by Paul and the support of our Church Architect Iain.

With the completion of the building repair work the church was reopened for the public to come for private prayer. Unfortunately, there was some vandalism so the decision was taken to close the church again until we could improve the CCTV coverage of the inside of the building

Maintenance

We are indebted to two key volunteers, Rob and Paul for their dedication to keeping the buildings maintained and safe for us all. In addition to their work we continue to ensure that our statutory obligations are being met.

Cleaning

Our cleaning contractor decided to cancel her contract with the church. We are grateful to Aaron who then decided to offer his services and agreed to take on the contract for a trial period. We have now formalised the contract and Aaron has agreed to take on the cleaning of the brass and silverware, a service which has been completed by a small but committed group of ladies from the church to whom we are grateful too.

Grounds

We have a contract for grass cutting and volunteers have helped with the annual Autumn leaf clearance. We have created a Grounds WhatsApp group so we can draw on an interested and willing group of gardeners to help keep the grounds looking cared for. If you would like to help with this work then please let us know and we can add you to the group.

Health and Safety

The church has been diligently supported by Nigel who has kept this area of church-life ticking along. We are in the process of updating the H&S Policy and are hoping to identify someone to take up the reins from Nigel soon.

Proposed works

We are very grateful to the AV team who ensure all the projected wording for readings, songs and services are correct as well as looking after the live stream of the services. This takes a lot of time and preparation, and our services would be very different without this small and committed team of volunteers. We are hoping to bring the AV desk back into the church from its 'Pandemic location', this will allow the team to meet all the safeguarding requirements so we can incorporate more of the young people into the team.

The youth work is a growth area for our church, and it is important that we support this important area of work not just in prayer but also with the resources that they need. We have reviewed the space utilisation around the church and the hall and need to provide a larger space for the youth to have principal use of. If funds are forthcoming, we would like to develop the stage area for them so that it will meet this growing need.

We have reviewed the hirers of the hall and storage too. We have introduced a system of charging for storage space for non-church groups and intend to rationalise the storage space that is currently being used.

Church Lighting

We are all aware that a number of the church lights have failed, spares and replacements of these lights are no longer available. A significant amount of work has been done by Nigel to get the initial Faculty Agreement agreed by the Diocese enabling us to progress with identifying the correct solution for our premises. Within this proposal we are hoping to improve the lighting controls to provide greater number of options for the church. This is subject to the final faculty agreement and funds being available for this work.

I have already mentioned a number of volunteers but there are many more who continue to manage rotas, complete elements of work, maintenance or checks around the building so that we can all attend events and services at the church on Sundays and throughout the rest of the week. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all the time and energy that you give to your roles. For those that are not yet involved, serving others is an incredibly rewarding area of service to our church family whether you are able to help for only a couple of weeks or maybe longer then please let us know. Even if you are not practically minded then there are other ways to help. Whist numbers attending are increasing the level of giving year on year remains almost static. Please continue to support all those that are involved with prayer, gratitude and encouragement.

With Thanks,

Andrew and John
Churchwardens