

## Church Wardens' Fabric Report 2022

This year saw the completion of the installation of the new Sound/camera system by contractors Novum. This was not without it's teething troubles and some remedial work has been carried over into 2023. The custom built cabinet to house the control console remains unfinished due to delays in the necessary materials being imported to the UK. It is expected to be completed soon after Easter 2023. The improvements in the sound quality, installation of new hearing loops as well as more automated means of filming and live streaming services (and potentially other events) are all very welcome. Huge thanks goes to Gijs Kruitbosch for many hours of hard work refining the system, liaising with Novum and training volunteer operators is very much appreciated.

Charnwood Borough Council carried out the promised work on the main gates to ensure they operate more smoothly and also filled in several pot holes that had appeared in the bad weather and which had started to create a hazard to vehicles and the general public.

Despite repairs to the South roof a couple of years ago we continue to suffer from leaks in very wet weather. However these repairs were always only a temporary solution and brings into focus the need to move on as quickly as we can to raise the necessary funds to effect a permanent repair. Other ideas are being considered for more re-ordering of the interior with the aim of providing a more welcoming entrance space together with creating more free space at the back of the nave (west end). All part of a medium term project meaning significant grant application and fundraising activity.

The curtain rail above the West (Tower) door has broken on one side and requires replacement. A faculty will be required for this and progress is underway.

During bell-ringing which took place during the Christmas Tree festival in December, it was noticed that there was movement in a couple of the larger trees, giving cause for concern that there may be an issue with the structure of the Tower. Ringing was ceased immediately as a precautionary measure. The church's architect (firm Acanthus Clews) has arranged a structural survey to ascertain whether there is any cause for remedial work and at the time of writing we await the report. Meanwhile, the sound of the bells is very much missed.

Following Chris Harvey formally standing down as Fabric Officer during 2022 after several years sterling work we have still not managed to find a replacement. We are very grateful that Chris has kindly given us on-going advice when we need it

We are also very fortunate to have the on-going help of our close neighbour John Dimmick, who runs our regular maintenance programme but goes above and beyond by keeping a general eye on the exterior of the building on his regular dog walks and effecting minor repairs inside from time to time.

Gwyn Bates and Marek Ryznarski  
Church Wardens