

Church Wardens Fabric Report for 2021

This year has seen the completion of the chancel restoration project, a labour of love for all concerned and a magnificent display of craftsmanship for all to see for many years to come. We are grateful to all who have given their skill, time and efforts to see this through, most particularly Chris Harvey, whose patience and attention to detail have been remarkable throughout and our Treasurer Bridget Towle for her drive to ensure the necessary funding was raised. The project was hoped to be completed by Easter, which was largely the case, although some work needed to be carried out on the south transept East wall after Easter to remove defective plaster and leave exposed to dry out.

Scaffolding was removed once the outdoor work was completed, allowing the main gates, which had been closed for security, to be opened again.

On completion of the monument restorations in the chancel, we received a comprehensive report with photographs and care and cleaning instructions from Pieta Greaves, our very able conservator.

In the Autumn, the South transept plaster repairs were completed, the South porch door bolt has been repaired and a fallen cricket has been cemented to the nave east pinnacle.

The West gates and pothole repairs are ongoing and is in the hands of Charnwood Borough Council.

We have received the Quinquennial report and, in view of the effects of bad weather on the South aisle roof, have taken the advice of our architect to see that as our next major repair project. A temporary repair to cover us for about 3-5 years had been carried out, but the felt has slipped in the extreme wind and rain and the only solution is to look into what our best long term options are to secure the church from water ingress.

Chris Harvey has made enquiries, to be investigated and followed up in due course. This includes early investigations into the possibility of installing solar panels on the South aisle roof as part of that project.

Chris was determined to see the chancel project completed before standing down as Fabric Officer, which he has now done, but not before ensuring, as he always did, that we were thinking about the next project. Indeed, in a medieval building, there is always a necessary next project!

The annual round of maintenance checks and works has been completed with the help of John Dimmock and Penny White has ensured the church is kept clean, something that required a lot of additional attention during peaks in the pandemic. We have committed to being an eco-church and as such use environmentally friendly products in our cleaning regime, something that Penny ensures we have in place.

James Strong has picked up overseeing our insurance policies and our utilities bills another of the many tasks that fell to the Fabric Officer.

The toll of Long Covid on the team meant this project stalled a little during 2021 however by the end of the year the necessary faculties were in place and we look forward to the full installation of this new sound system and cameras and a permanent set up for live streaming being installed in the late spring of 2022. We are grateful to Gijs Kruitbosch and Martin Pilton who are overseeing the project.