

Church Wardens' Fabric Report 2023

In January, the bell tower was inspected as a result of some movement noticed while ringing in December. The movement was found to be within acceptable limits. Taylor's carried out the scheduled inspection of the bells in November and necessary work was scheduled.

Some progress was made on the South roof project. In May, Acanthus Clewes (Architects) appointed Andrew Salter as lead architect for the project, with Philip Waghorn taking over in November. They visited and recommended a full measured survey of the church as a first step, from which drawings can be prepared and a new timetable for works put together, along with revised costings for the project. They had also recommended a bat survey earlier in the year, as evidence of bats was seen in that part of the church. This was carried out in August and a report issued, which offered suggestions for further checks, for timing of works to avoid the bat maternity season and for some bat-friendly materials to be used in roof work. It is anticipated that work could be carried out during the later part of 2025, although this is still a tight timetable, especially with the significant fundraising required and faculty applications, etc.

A representative of our insurers – Ecclesiastical – visited in June to carry out a valuation of the buildings and contents, and to help us through a risk management exercise to enable us to minimise risks in key areas.

List B applications were submitted for a handrail on the stairs up to the priests' room and for the proposed peregrine falcon nesting platform to be installed on the tower roof. These were completed and submitted by Chris Harvey and Caroline Lee. They were returned with requests for further information, and we await approval of the resubmitted applications.

Will Burns took over as Fabric Officer in October, although Chris Harvey has continued to work on some aspects of the role, for which we are very grateful. John Dimmick has continued to run the annual maintenance programme and we continue to appreciate his organisation, his hard work and his general oversight of the building and surroundings. A check on the lightning conductor system in was carried out in August, with remedial work completed in November. Other checks were undertaken according to his schedule, including heating, electrics, and the roof alarm system.

Gwyn Bates and Nicky Morgan
Church Wardens