

Churchwardens Report 2021-2022

We had our Quinquennial inspection in May 2021 which was undertaken by the architect who had supervised the new chancel roof. This included a detailed inspection of the church fabric and the churchyard. No major concerns were raised but, as one might expect of a church of this age, a few items needed remedying immediately and a couple of other things need ongoing monitoring – including damp and woodworm. We aim to tackle the small cracks in the East window and the cleaning and painting gutters during the summer. The list included a schedule of recommended work phased right through to the next Quinquennial. This will be reviewed and actioned in the light of available resources - especially financial resources.

We have a rolling schedule of maintenance checks on various aspects of the building. Most notable – and pleasing – was a service to the heating boiler when the engineer reported no problems but commented that it was very efficient and should last us for many years.

We had our triennial Deanery Inspection on 29th April 2021 and are pleased to report that our paperwork is in good order – the certificate was issued in May.

After a long wait we finally have taken delivery of the container, although not yet assembled. We hope to construct it this coming week. It will provide well needed, and secure, storage not only for tools and equipment but also for some items currently stored in church. We will then need to arrange for some trellis screening and planting. To help with maintenance work we have purchased a scaffolding tower.

Our regular churchyard clear ups were held during the summer and shoulder seasons and we will continue these throughout 2022.

The strong winds earlier this year brought down some substantial branches of the trees bordering the churchyard and the Rectory. These were quickly removed and logged. Please help yourselves to wood if you need it.

The proposed garden of rest at the east of the church has not progressed in 2021 and we are currently looking at options.

In October 2021 we took a lease of an office in the Community Centre over the road. This is regularly used by the three ministers in the WCP as a quiet place. We also have the use of a meeting room where we currently enjoy a weekly lent bible study.

Jonathan was delighted and honoured to be asked to become a Churchwarden in 2021 and he is very grateful to Roger for imparting his knowledge and for his guidance. Roger thanks Jonathan for his support this year.

We couldn't keep our lovely church building and churchyard in such good order without the help of many friends. We are truly thankful to those who help on a regular basis as stewards, on the sound desk, readers and intercessors at our services and with churchyard clear-ups. And our thanks also to those folk who respond to our call for assistance on one-off but regular occasions.

St Mary's Church is there for the congregation and community it serves and we are always grateful for the help and support of members of the congregation and community. Serving is an act of worship and we would welcome further help inside and outside the church as we come out of the Covid restrictions and we try to resume a sense of normality eg the reintroduction of coffee after services. Please do not hesitate to speak to one of us if you are able to offer a little help.

Finally, but not least, our grateful thanks to Matt and Alise for everything that they do. For their leadership and pastoral care; for the leadership of services and daily inspiration; for all their practical help; and for their unstinting support for us both.

2021 has been a positive year and we pray that, with God's guidance, we will build on that in 2022.

Roger and Jonathan
March 2022