

ST MARY'S DISCRICT CHURCH COUNCIL FABRIC REPORT FOR 2020

The routine inspection of the fire extinguishers, lightning conductor, clock and gutters was carried out during the year together with the annual check of the roof alarm.

Unfortunately because of the covid crisis the church was closed for most of the year both for normal worship and also for the various groups that use the building throughout the week.

Before the church closed redecoration and repairs were carried out to the vestry and toilets but because the building has been without heat for many months it will be necessary to revisit this work.

In early February an attempt was made to remove lead from the north side of the church. The damage caused was repaired and replacement material fitted but the lead was left behind and the culprits were arrested. The lead has been sold and funds will be reimbursed into church account.

Slough Borough Council have carried out maintenance of the churchyard throughout the year and they will be continuing during 2021. They were able to remove the seats in the area at the north side of the church and recently disposed of all the tents and rubbish left behind by rough sleepers. We have also received invaluable help from the Council team working with the homeless in the town. The community pay back team visited and worked in the churchyard prior to the lockdown and hopefully as restrictions are eased this will be continued

Additional lighting was added to the north and south aisles of the church interior and floodlights were installed to the exterior of the building together with 6 x CCTV cameras and monitor in locked steel cabinet.

The boilers and heating of the church continued to be a problem throughout the year but after consultations with Potterton recommended engineers it is hoped that all boilers will shortly be back in service.

The upper and lower gutters around the church were cleared and repairs were carried out to broken tiles in areas that did not require scaffolding.

A major clean up of the roof space above the vestry was carried out and this will be continued when lockdown eases.

The wardens would like to thank all the tradespeople we have used during the year for their prompt and efficient response as required. We would also like to express our thanks to Malcolm Stowell for all the work he has done during the year in response to many calls for help on the maintenance in and around the building.

During the coming year the Wardens and DCC will continue the programme of work required as outlined in the quinquennial inspection of 2018.

Jean Smith/Derek White Taylor. March 2021