

St Stephen's Ealing

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church for year 2022-23

For Annual Parochial Church Meeting 21 May 2023

(as required under the Church Representation Rules para II 9d)

As Churchwardens we are responsible, on behalf of the PCC, for all the buildings, plant & fabric and contents of the Church and Church Centre.

These also include maintenance of the buildings and fabric of the Cottage (occupied by our Premises Manager) and 26 Drayton Gardens (occupied by our Curate and her family).

We annually complete the annual terrier and inventory, and confirm that the silver and other possessions of the church are complete and in good order.

Our Quinquennial Inspection (QI) in July and August 2021 identified a number of issues that needed attention. We have since addressed and resolved most of these. The main concern was the state of the cupola on the Church roof which has now been rendered safe.

The QI Inspector, Steve Palmer, noted that the fabric of the St Stephen's building has been well maintained and this is largely thanks to the volunteers who lend their expertise during the year.

In November 2022 and April 2023, we organised 'Sleeves Up Saturday' when many cleaning and DIY jobs were carried out. These were well attended which made them a great opportunity to get to know other members of the Church community.

Our long-serving Centre Manager Gordon Nunn retired in August 2022 and our new Premises Manager Jack Cahill arrived in November 2022. Jack now carries out routine maintenance and cleaning of the buildings. Before Jack arrived the Cottage was redecorated and essential items such as the boiler, radiators and cooker replaced. Maintenance work, including new carpets, was also required on 26 Drayton Gardens before the Robinsons moved in during the summer.

The scheme to enlarge and greatly improve the entrance to the building, approved by the PCC in early 2022 and to be generously funded by the St Luke's Trust, has progressed through the planning stage more slowly than we had hoped. At present we are still awaiting the completion of a s.106 notice before final planning permission can be granted. Some initial work has been carried out, such as testing the soil and exploring the extent of the foundations. This delay has also held up work to re-level and re-surface the car park as the two schemes can only sensibly be carried out together.

We would like to thank all of the members of St Stephen's who have helped us keep the building safe and in good repair over the last year and in particular the Building Team who have worked very hard behind the scenes. Without all of your help our building would not be in the good state that it is now.

Mary Ann Auckland Ann Toley Churchwardens

April 2023