

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, BECKENHAM

REPORT ON CHURCH FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2023

Overall the fabric of the Church continues to be in good order. A regular Quinquennial Report took place this year but, due an extensive programme of works following the previous Report, there were no serious issues identified. The Buildings Team are working to address the recommendations made and continuing to ensure that any other minor maintenance problems that arise are sorted out.

The annual testing of Portable Appliances, Lightning Conductor, Fire Extinguishers, Alarms, and the servicing of the Gas Boilers were carried out according to their schedules. A full electrical inspection was not due this year but it was noted that a number of light bulbs in the Church were in need of replacement.

The Church has been open daily to visitors for viewing, private prayer and reflection. Due to the tireless work of Ron and Pauline, the interiors of the Church and the Halls are well maintained, always look their best and are regularly admired by everyone who uses them. Our thanks are due, as ever, to them. You are both amazing.

We plan to carry out a spring clean in the Church early in the New Year and to undertake a clearance and sort out of the cupboards, notice boards and surfaces. This would also be an opportunity to replace missing light bulbs.

A further seven small tables were purchased to replace the older ones currently in use in the Halls, making a total of 12 colourful tables.

The paths from Brackley Road to the main Church door and leading from there to the Vicarage were re-laid, incorporating the engraved slab just inside the entrance. This completed the programme commemorating the 150th anniversary of St Paul's.

The gardens and lawns continue to be well maintained by the Gardening Team and those who cut the lawn, and we are very thankful to them for their hard work. Every day members of the local community can be found enjoying the gardens, including dog walkers, families playing games on the lawn, and others who welcome the space for rest and reflection.

Consideration continues to be given to ways to improve the outside lighting and various methods are being looked at by the Buildings Team. It is hoped that, in addition to the Health and Safety benefits this will provide, these improvements will further enhance the Church's presence in the area.

Anthea Prendergast, Anne Harkness
Church Wardens