

David Gorton's reports:

Fabric of the Church

General maintenance is in good order;
Gutters, downpipes and soakaways have been cleared and cleaned.
Fire extinguishers tested and replaced as necessary.
The 5 yearly electrical testing for the main body of the church has been completed and certified and the required PAT testing also done, all necessary for insurance purposes.

The boilers were serviced prior to the winter period and have proved to be running well with only some minor work necessary to a switching system / valve to the BR addition.

The twice yearly servicing and tuning to the organ has been done and a repair to one of the valves is booked to be done on the next visit.

The annual inspection was carried out by the Rural Dean Mark Dunstan who was generally happy that all was in good order.
The Quinquennial inspection is due this year.

The NW gate repair was completed and restored to it's former glory !

The south wall plaster repair work is due to be carried out this year and now that conditions are suited to drying times etc I am waiting for information on timing.

The long running enquiry into relaying the paths in resin bound gravel finally established a suitable local contractor and quotation for the final specification at circa £30,000. We would choose to go ahead with this if ideally we could gain a grant to subsidise some of the cost.

Following last years report regarding the Brace Room roof leaking, various repairs were carried out before further investigation, including site visits from original builders Lodge and son and architects Michael Dales, identified design faults in the manufacture of the roofing system !
Our architects have put responsibility with Lodge to take the matter up with the roofing system manufacturer under their contractual liability. I am currently waiting for the latest report.

Churchyard

The front and central areas of the churchyard have been in fairly good order throughout the year, although some additional work is required to cut the south boundary hedges.
The lower churchyard however has been mostly out of control for most of last year and will be difficult to get back in shape this year without a concerted effort from an energetic team !
As grateful as I am for the volunteers helping with regular cutting, I am afraid for various reasons the numbers are diminishing.

I can report that it is great to return to "normal" services and my sincere thanks go to the regular teams that help with all of the duties and work at St Mary's.
I never take for granted the fantastic support group that we have.

Thanks to my counterpart Robin, particularly for his work on admin and safeguarding and all of the additional online requirements that have been needed during the last year, aside from his work as treasurer.

Well done Philip for another fantastic year working on our Parish Magazine,

Thank you to Alan and Bill for their wonderful ministry as always, particularly having lost the extra support from Wendy.
I finish by saying once again, we are truly blessed.