

Report of the Fabric Goods and Ornaments of the Parish of Finchampstead and California for 2016 (to be presented at APCM 2017)

Overview:

The overall stewardship of the 'Fabric, Goods and Ornaments' is an ongoing task undertaken by the Churchwardens year by year. Their annual report is submitted to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for review and finally approved by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This Fabric, Goods and Ornaments report is the process by which the Church of England oversees and ensures good management of all the Church physical assets.

Part of this process mandates the local Area Dean, on behalf of the Diocese, to undertake regular inspections of each of their local Parishes to assess how they are implementing their responsibilities, and the local Churchwardens are subsequently mandated to provide documented evidence of; all Service Registers, the Church Property Register, Church Log Book, Parish Statistical Return and various other documents concerned with related property issues, building & inventory Insurance, etc. in order to demonstrate that the church is being managed properly in line with Church of England regulations.

This Fabric, Goods and Ornaments report should be read in conjunction with the report from the associated committees at the two worship sites responsible for the day to day maintenance and running of our buildings and facilities around the parish.

The report is separated into sections for each of our buildings and facilities:

Parish Church of St James

The Church is maintained regularly and kept fit for purpose requiring regular review of the building and its structure together with the heating and lighting, replacing or repairing any problem or issues that may arise from time to time.

These activities are identified either from the weekly use of the facilities, during normal services and by being vigilant to issues as they arise. However, the Diocese mandates that a more structured review is undertaken every 5 years when an independent professional Architect is appointed to undertake a specific "Quinquennial Inspection" and their subsequent report, which identifies any urgent or planned remedial work needed to the Church (or other surrounding plant) is planned and enacted as part of the ongoing building maintenance assurance process. The last inspection was undertaken in August 2015 which found the church in very good order but with a small number of minor remedial tasks now prioritized and planned to be undertaken within the following 5 years.... Some of which have already been addressed.

During the year some of the external PIR lanterns, internal lighting and heating units have required some attention with; flood and spot lamps needing replacing, and also some heating elements needing to be replaced. The church sound system and CCTV have also had some ongoing maintenance. Unfortunately most heating and lighting units are mounted 'well' out of reach on upper beams and require extensive ladder work or in most cases the erection of our scaffolding tower for safe access. The quality of repairs/maintenance within the church

continue to reflect a good standard. An increasing number of jobs require external professional experience/skills with reference to formal regulations and these continue to be expensive cost items. Most work in the church is supported directly through *'The Friends of St James'* who undertake fund raising events and also welcome any 'donations or legacies' enabling us to continuing the loving care of our church & buildings.

Huge continuing thanks go to all our on-rota cleaning team who diligently keep the church neat and tidy from week to week and also all the service support folk who maintain the Communion and fabric items utensils in good order, and secure our goods and ornaments, etc. This is a big and complicated task.

Hiring external contract resources to do all this work would cost a small fortune and be prohibitive. So a huge thank you to all the; TWP, TGC and to all concerned with the Church and Manor House for your support, time and talents and for your continuing donations and financial giving.

Churchyard and Surrounding Area

Upkeep of the churchyard is the responsibility of the *Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust* which undertakes fund raising specifically for the ongoing ground maintenance of both the upper and the lower churchyard together with the gates, fences and hedges. We offer all those living in the Parish a tranquil and peaceful place of rest for both full Burial and interment of Ashes.

The maintenance of all the grassed areas is the largest part of the work and remains the most costly item of expenditure, but maintaining all the paths & trees and keeping all the memorials safe is always time consuming and important work. The *'Gardening Club'*, made up of stalwart volunteers, beaver away with all the seasonal leaf falls, trim the constantly growing ivy and keep the paths and walls free from weeds. The work keeps us busy while enjoying good healthy fresh air and much needed useful exercise and, of course, we all enjoy a good bonfire from time to time!!! All budding gardeners wishing to help would be more than welcome to join us!!!

The current churchyard is close to full capacity in terms of full burials but still plenty of space for interment of Ashes for some years to come. The new churchyard extension, to the west of the current churchyard, is to be called the; LIDDELL-SAMPSON churchyard, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Reading in September. There is still much to complete with a pedestrian side gate, noticeboard and general tidying prior to opening for first burials around Easter 2017. The final landscaping work of the higher area just to the south of the Manor House, also to be completed by Easter, is the *'Garden of Remembrance'* which will be fully grassed over with a patio and seated area which has stunning sunny views to the south.

We are expecting further maintenance and repair work, next year, with some attention on the tarmac entrance drive and traffic management adjacent to the Queens Oak junction and the addition of some rustic 'No Parking' signs around the edges of the grass triangle to allow safe passing for the general public.

The forthcoming developments concerned with St Eligius church and congregation will also provide us with new challenges as the scheme evolves and the issues are managed forward over coming years.

Manor House

There are a number of current issues which need to be addressed in 2017 concerned with the Manor House kitchen which is in need of some upgrading to meet current use and also to meet current hygiene standards. Also the toilet for the disabled is also badly in need of redecoration and some refurbishment.

A big thank you to all those in the 'Thursday Gardening Club', the 'Tuesday Working Party' who save the church significant bills by undertaking a whole variety of jobs both inside the Manor House and the surrounding grounds. The average age of the team is well over 80 years so if there are any budding 'DIYers' or 'gardeners' who would like to enjoy the fresh air do come and join our happy band doing all sorts of jobs in the Manor House & Flats maintaining them in good working and rentable state for the future.

St Mary and St John Parish Centre

A small committee which includes at least one of the wardens has the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the St Mary and St John's Parish Centre.

The property is in fairly good condition with the boiler serviced annually and the carpets cleaned regularly.

We were lucky enough to receive a grant during 2016 to replace the cooker in the kitchen which improved the facilities greatly

The bookings of the hall have continued to be organised by the wardens and most evenings and some days are regularly in use.

Gorse Ride Junior School

St Mary and St John's congregation worship in the main hall of Gorse Ride Junior School. All silverware, the altar table and other items required for regular worship are locked away in the sanctuary area during the week.

An open congregation meeting was held during the year and it was decided to get rid of the altar rails altogether as they were very heavy to move and store and not in a good state of repair.

The set up of the church is much simpler now and has been accepted by everyone.

A new caretaker was appointed by the school during the year and he is a huge asset to the church in setting everything up for us on a Saturday evening ready for our Sunday service.

We are very grateful to the sidespeople, coffee makers, flower arrangers and sound technicians for all their help during the year in setting up the church and allowing our services in the school to continue.

Thanks

With such an active parish as ours with a 12th century church, multiple supporting buildings, with now three worship centres, etc. it takes a lot of time and resources to keep running smoothly. We would like to thank all the members of the parish who give up their time and talents in all sorts of practical ways to help with this process. Very many thanks.

Ed Sampson, Joanne Myall, Marjorie Stalker and Sharon White

Churchwardens, to April 2017