

Report on Church fabric, goods and ornaments for the year ended 31st December 2021

There were no major changes or additions to the buildings and fittings in 2021, but a number of minor repairs and replacements were carried out, as recorded in this year's Annual Report (Buildings Team section). During the year the Pre-School Group also alerted the Wardens to the need for a minor repair to the south porch, next to the large gate between the Pre-School play area and the church garden. One of the facing stones had been dislodged, risking further damage to the stonework through ingress of water. The delay in finding a skilled mason to carry out the work was frustrating and the Wardens were relieved when the repair was finally done (in January 2022).

In May the equipment for live streaming of services was upgraded by the acquisition of a dedicated video mixer. Later in the year the defibrillator battery and pads were replaced (which should be done at least every 4 years) and it is now generally checked weekly. Plans are underway for St Paul's to become an accredited defibrillator site working closely and supported by the London Ambulance Service. The first aid kits are kept up to date by Judith Freeborn and many thanks are due to her for committing to doing this.

This was a year when Covid precautions were gradually scaled down, reflecting improvements in the public health situation. As part of this, from September the kitchenette and water heater at the back of the church were brought back into use to serve refreshments after the 10.30 service. The Wardens would like to take this opportunity to thank the siderspersons for helping with this task, morphing seamlessly from their earlier role in name-ticking for Test and Trace, whilst keeping the primary role of welcoming all comers.

Whilst the Wardens have a particular responsibility for regular maintenance tasks, many people contribute to keeping St Paul's fit for purpose as a house of prayer and worship. Ron and Pauline have continued keeping our church buildings clean and beautiful, a place of welcome and encouragement for those attending our services and for the many visitors who come into the church during the week. Many thanks also to the flower team, to David and Daphne for preparing the altar table for Holy Communion and to others who join in decorating the church for Christmas and other special days.

The church garden continues to be a wonderful resource enjoyed equally by church members and neighbours from the local community. As ever, thanks are due to the gardening team for all their hard work in good and bad weather!

The Wardens

April 2022