

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, BECKENHAM

REPORT ON CHURCH FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Overall, the fabric of the Church continues to be in good order. The Buildings Team work hard to ensure that any minor maintenance problems that arise are sorted out – much of the time 'in-house'. Their various skills are much appreciated.

The annual electrical testing of Portable Appliances, Lightning Conductor, Fire Extinguishers and Alarms were carried out according to their schedules. Other regular work was undertaken, including monthly pest control, quarterly cleaning of the hall windows and the south facade of the Church. The Buildings Team also ensure that the clock in the tower and the heating systems are serviced annually. Unfortunately, the annual service of the heating system to the church identified a serious problem with the gas burner which turned out to be terminal. A working party has been set up to investigate possible alternative ways to heat the main church and this is ongoing. In the meantime, portable patio heaters were hired to provide at least some heating to the church. A Spring clean of the kitchen and the halls by a team of dedicated volunteers took place as planned and thanks are due to all those who volunteered.

The proposed work to install exterior lighting to the Church path and main entrance took place earlier this year and improvements were made to the exterior lighting of the Halls. Thanks are due to all those in the Buildings Team who worked so hard to ensure that this project was completed. It has greatly enhanced the appearance of the Church at night.

The Church continues to be open daily to visitors for viewing, private prayer and reflection. Huge thanks are due to Tony and Shiona Pilgrim, who seamlessly took over the cleaning from Ron and Pauline Barrett. Their tireless work ensures that the interiors of the Church and Halls are well maintained, always look their best and are regularly admired by everyone who uses them. Thank you to all who arrange the flowers weekly, for special festivals and those who arrange for the Sanctuary flowers in memory of loved ones. Thanks are also due to all those who keep the brass so clean. You are all amazing.

The gardens and lawns continue to be well maintained by the dedicated 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.

Anthea Prendergast, Anne Harkness
Churchwardens
10th May 2026