

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Parish Church

Fulford: St Oswald

2024

*This is “the **annual report under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018**, as amended by the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2020,” required to be presented for consideration at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting **per the statutory APCM Notice (Form M1, item d)**.*

It is pleasing to report that **both our Church building and Hall registered improved levels of usage** - in terms of foot fall and occupancy - during 2024. The Church being open for regular Sunday and Wednesday Services and also on a daily basis during daylight hours for private prayer and contemplation; the Hall available for greater public use – through a wider variety of activities and events – as well as for continuing and one-off private hires.

Our Mission Statement objective, to “*reach out to the Community and beyond with the Christian Gospel, witnessing to God's love through word and action, **from an accessible and welcoming centre** for prayer, worship, teaching and fellowship*” continues to inform our PCC (Parochial Church Council) as we pursue the **next steps in our development programme** - striving, as we do so, to “*Act justly, Love mercy and Walk humbly with God.*”

THE CHURCH BUILDING

Plans for **additional nave heating** and a **new west end draught-proof porch with toilet and small tea point** became well advanced, with the various funding options being given consideration to make these improvements a reality. A single, digital, **smartmeter was installed** at the point of entry (in the tower base) to replace the previous configuration of three, analogue, electricity meters. And, after months spent finding an acceptable supply source and product specification, **new light bulbs** were at last acquired and installed in the Nave, Transepts and Lady Chapel by a small group of volunteers.

The **installation of CCTV** cameras continues to prove beneficial for security as well as providing some level of reassurance for those either working alone or opening and closing the building each day. During 2024 the recordings were instrumental in identifying an individual who removed the brass Lady Chapel cross (subsequently returned) and a group of boisterous youngsters whose unruly behaviour was intimidating church users and visitors.

THE CHURCH GROUNDS AND CURTILAGE

During the year:

The **damage caused to the boundary wall and railing** following the Turkey Oak bough drop (EIG insurance claim no. 420894) – as well as the long outstanding safety modifications to the spikes along the whole span of the church frontage railings - was successfully addressed. The **laurel hedge behind the church** - beginning to be problematic for our neighbours - was reduced in height; and a major **autumn leaf clearing** exercise carried out by members of the congregation.

CHURCH HALL

Accreditation of the Church Hall as a ‘Good Place, Warm Place’ venue under a City of York Council winter initiative continued, allowing us - with funding support from the Council and practical assistance from **Sainsbury's local** - to maintain our food share facilities and expand our mid-week outreach activities (Community Cafe, St Oswald's Tots, Time Out and Community Cafe ‘Drop In’ events during the School holidays) by the introduction of other occasional low key activities; Table Tennis and an Art Club. The **2024/25 CYC GPWP Winter Grant** also allowed us to **repair and re-instate the Church Hall Hearing Loop** for the benefit of all Church Hall users.

Here too, a single, digital, **smartmeter was installed** at the point of entry (in the small back-stage room) to replace the previous installation of three, analogue, electricity meters. However, the results of a periodic **mains circuit testing** review highlighted the need for a **complete electrical rewiring of the main hall lighting, heating and power sockets**. Fortunately this was largely completed during the summer break avoiding disruption to our kitchen use or our Community Cafe and Drop In activities. But water ingress after the late autumn gales has caused concerns to be raised about the **condition of weather-proofing on the mineral felted kitchen wing roof** (now out of guarantee) and the situation is being monitored.

Also during late summer, and following successful grant applications, a new **room divider with improved sound attenuation** was installed to replace the existing configuration which – after over half a century's service – was beginning to be untenable. This was closely followed by the **acquisition of 80 new, blue seated, tubular steel chairs** – financed by a generous donation – and disposal (to a recycling charity) of the majority of the previous black seated chairs, with just 20 of the best being retained for future use.

Other than the occasional and accidental trip, slip or spill – reported to the PCC as a matter of routine via the Church and Hall Accident Report books - there were **no major accidents or incidents** reported to the PCC **requiring physical or structural changes to our buildings or property.** (Though the CCTV incidents noted above have prompted a review of our lone worker policy and the possible provision of some further, practical safety measures.)

Only one FACULTY was applied for and approved during the year:

2024-096856 West End Reorder: Internal Porch, WC and Tea point. Faculty granted 20.6.2024 with a completion deadline of 36 months from approval.

Work was also completed during the late summer months on the previous faculty permissions:

2023-089080 Church Hall ramp replacement - although a subsequent amendment for the addition of a safety rail was approved with the additional work yet to be done - and

2023-089057 Restore and adapt railings and wall to Church Frontage.

Although approved in principle at 2024 PCC meetings, the documentation for additional nave heating was delayed resulting in the faculty application **2025-110334 Additional Nave Heating** being submitted in February 2025 for consideration at the March DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) meeting. The application currently remains under DAC review awaiting further clarification from our Architect.

INTERNALLY the good working order of the **Church Clock has been maintained** (with continued regular - weekly - winding by a team of volunteers and annual servicing by Smith of Derby). **Fire Extinguisher servicing is carried out** annually by Advance Fire Services Ltd. Whilst **Geoffrey Coffin, York Pipe Organs, carries out the regular** (seasonal) **tuning of the Church Organ.**

GOODS & ORNAMENTS

Whilst a number of our seasonal Chasubles and stoles remain (in semi retirement) in the Clergy Robing Vestry wardrobe, our usual plate, chalices, burse and veils, altar frontals and pulpit drops continued in use at services along with our precautionary carbon dioxide air particle monitors and free-standing foot pedal operated hand sanitiser stations. The electronic digital hymnal (aka ‘the magic music machine’ or ‘the Holy Jukebox’) providing invaluable back up for Services, including occasional offices (funerals and weddings) and Army events, when either an organist or pianist has not been available. It has also been used at some of our monthly Residential/Care Home Services at Ouse View and Connaught Court.

As always, thanks are due to our Flower Arrangers, Brass, Church and Hall Cleaners – and the behind the scenes team of d-i-y hit men (and women!) - whose ongoing efforts help preserve, protect and enhance our fabric and adornments. Our CHURCHYARD grass is cut commercially (by Greenfingers Garden Services), and the borders maintained by our team of garden volunteers - thank you all - and additional volunteers are always most welcome! Finally, for the record, the table below lists our current commercial contacts for the respective parts of our property:

Area	Items	Commercial maintenance and repair
Church Exterior	Stonework, copings, roof tiles, gutters, leadwork	Pinnacle Conservation Ltd
	Lightning Conductor	Stone Technical Services Group Ltd
Main entrance	Plinth & steps	Matthias Garn Master Mason & Partner
Church Interior	Organ	Principal Pipe Organs
	Clock	Smith of Derby Ltd
	Microphones, hearing loop & Sound system	Rock-Tech AV Ltd
	Fire extinguishers	Advance Fire Services Ltd
Utilities	Gas Heating	H. Pickup M&E Services Ltd
	Electric circuits, PAT testing	Herbert Todd & Son Ltd
	Plumbing	RVT Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Church Hall	Folding room divider screen	Total Workplace Solutions Ltd
	Office Printer	Toshiba Tec UK Imaging Systems Ltd
Churchyard	Grass cutting	Greenfingers Garden Services
	Arboriculturalist	Mark S Feather
	Tree surgeon	Stuart P Bolton

Bryan Milner, Churchwarden.

April 2025