

# REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

## FULFORD: St OSWALD

2025

*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 of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting per the statutory APCM Notice (Form MI, item d).*

As in the report for the calendar year 2024, it is good to report that both our Church building and the Church Hall have recorded improved levels of usage – in both foot fall and occupancy – during 2025. 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 Church Hall continues to be used for a wide variety of activities and events on a regular basis and also for one-off private hirers.

Our Mission Statement objective is, 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**”.* This mission continues to inform our PCC (Parochial Church Council) as we pursue the **next steps to our DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME** – striving, as we do so, to “*Act justly, Love mercy and Walk humbly with God.*”

### THE CHURCH BUILDING

Plans for the West End Development of the Church have become finalised in which we will add additional heating for the nave, install a new draught-proof porch, a toilet and a small ‘kitchen in a cupboard’. We collected statements of support from individuals and organisations, began to plan several heritage projects to support our application for grant to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Additionally, we set in place an Appeal for Funds and instructed our architect to send out requests for tenders.

The **smartmeter** installed in the tower base is working well and we are pleased with the **new light bulbs** installed in the Nave, Transepts and Lady Chapel last year by a small group of volunteers. The **CCTV cameras** continue to prove beneficial for security as well as providing reassurance for those either working alone in the church or in opening and closing the building each day.

### THE CHURCH GROUNDS AND CURTILAGE

We are grateful to our team of volunteers that maintain the flower borders around the church and to Pippa Ensor and her attendees of Forest Church in providing seedlings to plant in the new raised beds, the vegetable garden and bulbs in the borders as well. We are also grateful for the regular grass cutting by Greenfingers Garden Services.

During the year, it came to our attention that the large Horse Chestnut Tree at the back of the church had become structurally unsound. Many experts were consulted and it has been “with a heavy heart, that the PCC decided to remove the tree”. If the City Council approves, the trunk will be left in place to support wildlife and we will plant a replacement tree, along with another tree that was already planned to be planted.

## **CHURCH HALL**

As you can read in the report on the Use of the Church Hall, we attract both commercial hall hire sessions throughout the week as well as our own activities: The Community Cafes on Tuesday and Wednesday morning; St Oswald’s Tots on Thursday mornings; and a Table Tennis session most Monday afternoons and an Art Club on Thursday afternoons apart from the last Thursday which is Time Out for Seniors. We have continued to be a venue for the City of York Council winter initiative ‘**Good Place, Warm Place**’ which takes place during the school half-term and holiday breaks. This has allowed us, with funding from the Council and practical assistance from **Sainsbury’s Local** to maintain our food share facilities and to expand our mid-week outreach.

During the year, the PA system failed and with a £500 donation from the Local History Society and our own funds, we were able to instal a new amplifier. Although two speakers do not seem to be working, the others are acceptable for the time being, but we may need to call in the engineers again.

Other than the occasional minor incident, reported to the PCC as a matter of routine via the Church and Church Hall Accident Report books, there were NO major accidents or incidents reported which would require any physical or structural changes to our building or property.

## **FACULTIES**

In 2024 the faculty was granted for the West End Reordering of the Internal Porch, the WC and the teapoint with a completion deadline of 36 months from 20 June. However the additional nave heating was delayed and only submitted in February 2025; and has now been approved.

## **THE CHURCH CLOCK and ORGAN**

The church clock is in good working order with annual servicing by Smith of Derby and weekly winding by a team of volunteers. As to the organ, Goeffrey Coffin, York Pipe Organs, carries out the regular seasonal tuning.

## COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS for 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 and Steps	Matthia 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
	?IT and INTERNET	
Church Hall	Folding Room Divider Screen	Total Workplace Solutions Ltd
	Office Photocopier	Toshiba Tec UK Imaging Systems Ltd
	PA System	Rock-Tech AV Ltd
	Water boiler	Wards Catering
Churchyard	Grass Cutting	Greenfingers Garden Services
	Aboriculturalist	Mark S Feather
	Tree Surgeon	Stuart P Bolton

## GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The Inventory, Terrier and Log Book are currently being brought up to date and digitised but be reassured that EVERYTHING listed has been viewed, is in good condition and kept in safe and secure place – albeit some candlesticks and crosses are on altars in the church but the CCTV camera helps prevent theft. Our usual plate, chalices, burse and veils, altar frontals and pulpit drops are used regularly in services and though some of our vestments are not used regularly, they are stored in the Clergy Robing Vestry wardrobe

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The electronic digital hymnal provides invaluable back up for Services, including occasional offices (funeral and weddings) and Army events, when neither an organist or pianist has been available. It has also been used at some of our monthly Residential/Care Home Services.

A Yamaha Clavinova is a premium digital piano series that combines the authentic sound, touch and feel of an acoustic grand piano with the convenience and modern features of digital technology. It is played at the vast majority of services instead of the organ.

## **FLOWERS, BRASS POLISHING AND CHURCH CLEANING**

As always, thanks are due to our Flower Arrangers, Brass, Church and Hall Cleaners. In addition, there are many working behind the scenes to help preserve, protect and enhance the fabric of our Church and Church Hall and the care of our altar ornaments, vestments and furnishings.

Louise R Wheatley

April 2026