

Burpham Church Fabric Report 2020

As we know there was only limited use of our buildings in 2020 and we saw only a few problems arise in them, although we still have the serious long term issues, identified in the Quinquennial (5 yearly) inspections carried out early in 2017, arising principally from the age of the buildings. Further discussions on improvements to enhance our ministry, focused initially on what our overall vision is for the future, have taken place with a view to appointing architects to help us develop our ideas in a few months time.

St Luke's Church

St Luke's has sadly effectively been closed since the first lockdown although it did host (outside only) the annual Remembrance Day service, and its entrance porch proved an excellent site for a nativity scene at Christmas. The main issue at St Luke's remains the need to re-roof the whole church replacing the supporting battens, bearing in mind we have twice applied for a grant to help fund the work, but have been unsuccessful. The rate of deterioration of the roof is slow, but it is very difficult to assess how much longer it will last. The gutters and downpipes were cleaned and temporarily repaired in 2019 but further cleaning etc (after blockages we believe caused by pigeons!) was necessary by this winter.



As previously reported during the winter of 2019/20 the path leading to the church frequently flooded, became very muddy, and difficult to use to access the church, and this was very evident at Christmas time.



The Levasier family came to the rescue in March 2020 and, led by James, have widened and greatly improved the path as these before and after pictures show.

Church of the Holy Spirit

CHS has also been seriously affected in its usage by Covid 19 since the first lockdown, but not quite to the same extent as St Luke's. A few socially distanced Communion services were possible for part of the year and some access for prayer.

It did play an important role in providing support for the community and Preschool has been able to operate for much of the time. There have been relatively few issues requiring immediate attention but the south window, which was repaired externally in the autumn of 2019 again experienced significant ingress of water during serious storms in the autumn of 2020, when there were very strong winds as well as rain. Further work (not in the original scope) sealing in the glass in the windows into a metal



sub-frame, an unusual arrangement dating back to the original construction of the window, is scheduled to be carried out in March 2021 which should solve the problem. Decoration of the inside, which has been in poor condition for several years, is to be carried out at the same time.

General condition

As previously reported the 2017 quinquennial inspection of CHS expressed serious concerns about the flat roofed area of building at the front of the site, which is the only part not to have seen major refurbishment in the last 10 years or so. Significant work is required to the walls, roof and windows, ideally by replacement of all of that part of the building. Hopefully this can be addressed as part of the wider improvement to enhance our ministry being planned as mentioned above.

We will also need to resurface the car park fully before too long, but we have done regular patch repairs to maintain accessibility.

Notice Boards

The notice boards in both Burpham Parade (as can be seen) and at St Luke's are showing their age and now in poor condition, not showing Burpham Church in the best light. The PCC therefore decided to replace them and this was completed in March 2021.

