

Burpham Church Fabric Report 2021

As in 2020 there was significantly reduced use of our buildings in 2021 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. We will be having the next Quinquennial inspection shortly and it is expected to reconfirm those long term issues, and identify further concerns needing more immediate attention, but hopefully most can be addressed by a major project without the need for urgent interim action. The discussions on building improvements to enhance our ministry, linked to what our overall vision is for the future, have not progressed since spring 2021 due to the uncertainty that has arisen since then. It is hoped they may resume before too long.

St Luke's Church

St Luke's has been little used since the first lockdown although it did again host (in a rather different way) the annual Remembrance Day service, and it was able to hold the midnight communion service at Christmas. There was an issue with a smell of gas just before that service, but after work by Premier Heating and a check by Southern Gas all was confirmed safe prior to the service.



Otherwise 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 and further cleaning etc (after blockages we believe caused by pigeons!) was undertaken early in 2021.

Church of the Holy Spirit

CHS has been in greater use than in 2020 but still significantly affected by Covid. In person services began again in March but for most of the year seriously reduced in both number and what could take place in the service. Social distancing and monitoring of CO² levels became very much the norm. There have been relatively few issues requiring immediate attention but the south window had further work sealing in the glass in the windows into its metal sub-frame. [While this worked satisfactorily in 2021, Storm Eunice in 2022 led to further water ingress and the contractor has agreed to investigate the problem and undertake further work to seal the windows.]



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.

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