

St John's APCM 2023

Fabric and Furnishings report

During 2020 – 2022 we did a lot of work on upgrading our already impressive audio-visual system to enable us to have an online presence, and importantly, to make it easier for the volunteer team to provide a professional level of performance. Thanks to Johnny and his team.

In the last year, we have been focusing on working towards 'net-zero'. This is a combined Church of England and national initiative. The C of E has committed to being net-zero by 2030. What this means is that our carbon dioxide usage (from burning gas) is absolutely minimized, and any usage we do have is offset.

We have worked hard to moving towards net zero, primarily by tightening up the insulation of our 200 year old church building, and by replacing our lightbulbs to LED (low energy lightbulbs). Thank you to Chris Peters, Dave Watts and other helpers.

Another aspect of net-zero is knowing about our consumption of resources, and again, we thank Chris Peters for being on top of electricity, gas, water and sewer usage.

The next challenge is to move towards 'green' energy supply and also to be vigilant towards grants and planning permission changes that may help us to be able to install solar panels within the next five years.

We are on top of church maintenance, and have made much progress on picking up issues that are arising from the Easter Centre now being five years old. Mundane things such as replacing emergency lighting batteries has been a very labour intensive operation. I won't mention who has championed this – you can all guess.

To just warn everyone, there is a possibility that we will have to do major work on the church roof within the next few years. We (Phil Holloway and his team) have done a magnificent job at patching up areas, but inevitably the day will come when this is not enough.

Thank you to everyone that is involved in maintaining the church buildings and grounds. It's always dangerous to thank individuals as there will always be someone that is left out. In my first year as churchwarden, I am just learning who is involved in everything that goes on in church and all the things that magically happen, completely unseen.

With Bob Bridgman currently out of action, I am overwhelmed at what he has done over the decades, and very grateful for the various messages I have received from him about what I need to be doing in the various seasons of the church year.

It has been such a blessing to serve you as churchwarden.

God bless,

Joyce