

St Peter's Tiverton

Fabric Report to PCC August 2020

With lockdown the Fabric Committee have not met formally since 3rd March and the Tuesday working group has been on hold except for regular inspections of the church and churchyard, by a single person.

More recently the working group has met socially a few times in the churchyard and has undertaken a few minor maintenance tasks, which were able to be undertaken safely, such as roof clearance and removal of dead birds from the base of the vestry chimney (very smelly and not pleasant)

The most significant item of concern has been vandalism to the heating chamber on the Chorle. Entry into the chamber has been gained by breaking through the timber louvres in the north wall and the space above the hot air duct, between the chamber and the church wall is also being occupied. Both these locations give a dry place to congregate. No damage inside the heating chamber has been found as yet.

We realised that guarding is now required as injury to any intruder would be the parishes responsibility legally. It is also an insurance requirement. With Standing Committee approval a brief was prepared and quotations sought from two firms of engineers. One sensible price was received from Moorish Engineering in Howden Road in the sum of £2,800.00 and this has been accepted and an order placed with them. We hope the work on site will commence soon.

The damaged stained glass window in the south west corner has been replaced as the contractor, Bob Tucker of Heritage Stained Glass, is able to work on his own.

We have other works outstanding which have been delayed by the pandemic, the most significant being the works to the churchyard trees and the masonry maintenance works required at roof level. As yet we have not been able to establish firm dates for these works but they are promised for this year.

Other smaller projects are all on hold for the time being but none are of a critical nature and will be looked after when circumstances allow.

With the coming of winter and the ongoing problems with vandalism there is a requirement for improved floodlighting at the west end of the church. Improved lighting may allow our existing CCTV to operate more efficiently. A scheme for roof and high level LED floodlights is to be developed that will illuminate downwards for security reasons, not the church itself. The existing floodlight, mounted on the nave roof, will continue to illuminate the clock face of the tower.

Professional certification of electrical installation works, required for insurance purposes, means that these works are beyond the capacity of the Tuesday group so quotations will be sought.