

St Edward's Church Fabric Report 2019

In May 2019 the PCC decided to submit the faculty application for a handrail in the Churchyard to assist the disabled and elderly to negotiate the slopes between the main Church street gate and the south door and just inside the pedestrian gate to the north-east of the Church. Funding would be from a private donation, with the majority donated by the Friends of St Edwards. The faculty application was approved by the PCC and submitted in September.

By September, the PCC had received a reference number and permission from the Highways Department to put up black bollards outside the entrance to the church one hour in advance of funerals.

The Alexander Trust had agreed to fund a CCTV Alarm for the church roofs. The total cost would be £2,600 for a total of 6 cameras along the roof feeding into one unit. In the event of someone being detected on the roof. The annual maintenance insurance and fees would cost £300/year. It was hoped that the Trust would also cover this cost. The better security system would ensure full insurance cover in the event of metal loss, rather than just £5,000 without such a security system. The roof alarm was duly fitted in October and the key holders trained and allocated keys. The roof alarm system will be serviced every six months, including cleaning cameras and renewing batteries for the wi-fi connection.

Also in October, Derek Magson fitted a replacement lock on the external doors to the tower and clergy vestry doors. New keys had been signed for by all keyholders. These security keys cannot be copied as they can only be cut with a special card

By November, we had received a rather unfavourable reaction from the DAC to the faculty application for the handrail. However, completion of a Disability Access Survey revealed a regulation requiring the installation of handrails beside main access paths with a gradient of greater than 1 in 20, which proved instrumental in getting the Diocese, eventually in June 2020, to permit the project. Meanwhile, direct consultation with various agencies, including the town and district councils, Historic England, English Heritage and the archaeology section of the county council, culminated in the issue of a waiver by the district council in the Summer of 2020, regarding planning permission and listed building consent. This not only saved us several hundred pounds in planning and consultancy fees but also gave us final permission to undertake the work.

During the year the church clock has had problems with the hourly chimes, although the quarters work properly. Smiths of Derby were duly consulted on several occasions, after which the Rector and Rob Brown adjusted the mechanism. However, the clock appears to work for a while and then fail to strike again. Two people from Smiths came from Derby on 11th September to service the clock and duly sent their invoice for £292 incl. VAT. The PCC express their thanks for the ongoing efforts of Rob Brown to keep the clock wound and synchronised.

John Kennell