

REPORT UPON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH OF
ST. EDMUND, KING & MARTYR, SOUTHWOLD

APRIL 2024

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

These have been checked against inventories and found to be in good condition.

SOUTH PORCH RESTORATION

This work, which involved structural elements, replastering and decoration, was completed in July 2023. The contract represented the major work carried out on the fabric of the church during the year. Refurbishment of the notice boards and restoration of the lightshade were kindly undertaken by Mr. Michael Carter.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHURCH ARCHITECT

In October 2023 Alan Greening, our church architect, indicated that he wished to stand down from the post. Following discussion by the PCC, it was decided to approach John Bennett to fill the post. Happily he accepted the position. John has practiced in Southwold for many years, and has long been a member of our congregation. John has undertaken work on mediaeval churches in the past and is on the DAC list of approved architects.

HEATING SYSTEM

An inspection and servicing visit was undertaken by SES Mechanical Services satisfactorily and a certificate issued in June 2023. We are in the process of addressing the problem of enabling some form of heating to be available to the Steward's desk for when the church heating system is not on. The Architect is drawing up plans for a localised heating provision in this area.

SOUTH DOORS

We are consulting Anglia Glass regarding the problem of the glass doors blowing open when there are strong winds. A number of solutions have been considered and tried with the closing mechanism.

INSCRIBED FLOORBOARD

The old (1584) inscribed floorboard from the church tower has been properly mounted on an oak frame beneath the Jack. An explanation of its likely history is mounted in a frame below.

ROOFING ISSUES

There were two instances of water incursion during heavy rainfall and high winds. Some minor work was necessary on the roof and contractors undertook a full clearance of debris from the gutters, gulleys and downpipes. In order to avoid leakage problems, this will need to be undertaken on an annual basis.

LIGHTENING PROTECTION SYSTEM

A full inspection was carried out by PTSG Electrical Services Ltd in December 2023 and, following some remedial work on one of the conductor positions, a certificate of test and inspection was issued.

MAIN NOTICEBOARD

The design and construction of the replacement noticeboard adjacent to the main gate is being undertaken by Mr. Charles Morris. I have been advised that this project is well under way and will shortly be completed.

SOUTH-WEST BUTTRESS TO CHURCH TOWER

Following concerns raised regarding cracks in the stonework during the Quinquennial inspection, tell-tales have been affixed to the SW buttress. These will be monitored over a period of time in order to assess whether there has been any movement and, if so, the extent of that movement.

MINOR ITEMS

Several minor items have been addressed during the year. These include:-

1. Provision of a new sink in the Clergy Vestry.
2. Annual testing of all portable electrical appliances
3. Repairs to the Georgian table from the Clergy Vestry
4. Rendering safe several gravestones in the churchyard
5. New Rector's name added to the Incumbent's Board on the North Aisle wall
6. Re-affixing screens in the bell chamber
7. Re-affixing hymn boards to Nave walls
8. Re-affixing loose pammments in Chancel to avoid trip hazard
9. Replace lighting switch in Trinity chapel
10. Fire extinguishers checked and some replaced by Chubb and certificate issued
11. Repair of churchyard gates following vehicular damage

FONT COVER

Following concerns regarding the safety of the font cover and inspection by a Structural Engineer, the raising system has been de-activated. The Architect is in the process of designing and seeking DAC approval for a support that will leave the cover in the raised position, thus enabling baptisms to be safely undertaken at the font.

IAN JOHNSON
FABRIC OFFICER

17th April 2024