

St John the Baptist – Church Wardens’ Report January 2017 to December 2017

We were thankful that the Interregnum was not too long and delighted that our Parish has been blessed with Peter and Caroline.

Buildings & Grounds

The majority of the work listed in the last Quinquennial Report has been completed and the remaining outstanding work is hoped to be completed by the end of 2018.

General Maintenance work on our buildings and grounds continues to be carried out by Paul, Dave and Marion. Our thanks to them for all their hard work.

The Lych Gate was dismantled in May 2016 as it was considered unsafe. All parts were photographed and numbered as they were taken down and are now in storage. Bore Hole investigations have been carried out, the findings of which will be used to design suitable foundations and our consulting engineer has been requested to prepare the tender drawings for the foundations. Thank you to all who have contributed to our fund raising and to those who have worked, and continue to work towards raising funds for this project.

The required testing of the Gas, Electrics (including PAT testing), Emergency Lighting, Lightning Conductor Fire Extinguishers and alarms was carried out in both the Church and Hall and all guttering on both buildings was cleared of leaves and debris. The organ has also been serviced and re-tuned. It was necessary to call out a pest control company to deal with ants that were nesting in the organ loft and at the same time a small amount of woodworm was dealt with.

Enfield Council have given us permission to reduce one of the oak trees in our grounds though we have not been able to go ahead with the work as the Tree Officer from the local Council noticed that there were signs of bat activity at the base of the tree. An Ecologist has yet to finalise his Report on the Bat situation but it may be that in the meantime it will be necessary to fix temporary strapping/support struts and an exclusion zone around the tree until such time as the bats have finished their hibernation, the birds have finished nesting and the Ecologist has been able to confirm if there is bat activity in the tree. Our Insurers have been notified of the situation.

Small pieces of wood were found to have fallen from the Fleche onto the floor of the Church. The area was cordoned off and our Insurers notified. At the suggestion of our Architect a steeplejack came to look inside the Fleche and reported that the cause of the fallen pieces of wood was due to fragments of wood being chipped off when new roof slates were being nailed in position. He confirmed there were no structural problems and all the timber was sound with no signs of worm or beetle.

The Church and Jean Price Hall continue to be open on a Wednesday 10.15am to 4.30pm and Friday 2pm until 4.30pm, drinks and biscuits are available for all visitors. Both the Church and the Jean Price hall continue to be hired by organisations and individuals for different events.

Inventory: This remains the same as last year.

Services: Both our congregations joined together for the Sunday morning Eucharist at St John’s whilst the ceiling works were in progress at St Luke’s. Peter and Caroline have re-introduced the Children’s Service and this has become very popular with both parents and children and numbers are increasing. The school continue to hold their end of term services in the Church as well as their Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Harvest Festival and Carol Services. The Sunday morning Eucharist service continues to be held at 9am with Evening Prayer/discussion at 6pm.

We thank Peter for the care and commitment that he gives to our Parish and also Caroline for all that she does in supporting him in his ministry. Finally our thanks go to David Nash, Lay Readers Andrew and Roy, Jakob and John our organists, Michael Mansfield our Pastoral Assistant and all who have given of their time and talents throughout the year for the benefit of our Church.