

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT (D.P.S. - Practical) FOR 2018-2019

My report concerns the day to day aspects of the church and hall. The majority of the minor items from the Quinquennial Report of 2010 have been carried out although some of them are superfluous such as repairing West door & draught seals (due to be altered by WC works). I am now waiting for dry and warm spell to complete sealing/painting the cellar door and organ window ring. The rainwater gutters and downpipes are needing a rub-down and re-paint – unsure whether this is a self help job or one to be contracted.

There have been difficulties with the church boiler but I have now replaced the filling loop which makes it easier to maintain water pressure, it received its annual service last December. We are still having trouble with the hall boiler and are waiting for an electrical expert to trace the fault.

The windows to the church hall were replaced and together with the new blackout blinds and some interior painting have served to improve the hall. The forthcoming painting of the kitchen and doors will also help. I have carried out the necessary monthly emergency lighting tests and had some updated and some extra ones fitted by the electrician.

Arthur has mentioned the toilet works in his report which are proceeding slowly and we hope will accelerate during this year. I met the consulting engineer on site last year to discuss the implications of enlarging the West Door inner opening and the sewage disposal plan for the new toilet.

The new printer was bought and started operation last August, and after some teething troubles, is now operation very well. The price per copy contract we currently have is a bit pricey but we have had many engineer call-outs! It has been a learning curve for the users but we have now got used to it and hope to change the contract on the anniversary. The Milford Messenger makes a profit of about £70 per month which helps to offset the costs of the church printing. It is now available at the Tpost and we are trying to expand its circulation numbers. Fairburn and Ledsham also use it and they are charged for each use.

There has been a complaint about over-growing trees in the churchyard and they were referred to Selby District Council whose responsibility that is. Having said that it would be a good thing to have a churchyard clean-up in the Spring.

There has been another complaint about ivy in the new grave yard overgrowing the neighbouring fences and I have removed the wire mesh 'fencing' to gain access and have cut back all of the ivy.

Another complaint about the Black and Green bins in the new graveyard has been responded to without any reply. People are still placing wire mesh wreaths into the green re-cycling bin despite the notice saying not to.

The continuing interregnum causes concern and I have been active in finding priests to cover our services when David leaves us after his last service with us on Easter Sunday. So far I have secured priests for all of the Wednesday services up to the end of July and have filled many dates for Sundays into September, but there are still a few to fill but am hopeful that the Selby Abbey team will help.

David Sample