

## **Church Fabric Report For 2019**

Once again a big thank you to anyone who has helped in any way with the upkeep of the church during 2019, your continued support is most welcome. Much has been achieved during the year with a great deal of effort put in by all who have freely given their time.

The Saturday Gang met on 5 Saturdays throughout the summer between April and September. We all worked very hard to keep the slate borders clear, dead headed flowers, cleared weeds and fallen leaves, created a rose garden with stepping stones, located and painted a metal seat by the rose garden, painted further sections of the metal railings in Church Walk and continued work on the north porch gates and more.

In February the upper drainpipes were removed and repaired by Conservation Leadworks which has solved a number of leaks on the lower roofs. A new lower door was fitted on the north porch tower and the tower window replaced.

At the beginning of the year work for the Tower Project was put out to tender and in April the initial Faculty application was made for work to be done on the tower, west window and drainage. It took a great deal of time, patience and effort before the Faculty was finally granted on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. The real work starts now and that is to raise the funds needed to complete the works.

Our thanks go to Philip Mears for building the display cabinet for our Matchstick Church. The church was built by Maurice Clarke in 1979 and had spent most of the time since on top of a cupboard in the vestry gathering dust. It finally went on display in church on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Since then the visitor information has been updated incorporating the research done by Linden Secker into Maurice Clarke's family history.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July our old and defunct internal CCTV system was replaced with a modern system which uses infrared to record clear images in the dark giving our church that extra security.

National Churches Trust are running a 2 year project recording the number of visitors to churches who participate in the project. The PCC decided that we would take part in the project and purchased a digital counter which was installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The figures are reported calendar monthly and you may be surprised to know that 2977 people were recorded as entering the church in December. The true figure would probably be slightly higher as it cannot cope with groups of people entering at the same time. The main benefit from our point of view is that the numbers recorded can help when applying for grants which we are now in the process of doing for the Tower Project.

Last but certainly not least the Choir Organ. Our thanks go to Clifford Godfrey for this very generous gift he has bestowed upon us. Mr Godfrey wanted to fund the restoration of the Choir Organ in memory of his late wife Iris and we will be forever grateful. Not only did he fund the project but organised most of it too. A Faculty application was made and was granted on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. Work began immediately and was completed by Malcolm Spink and his colleagues just in time for our carol service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Churchwardens

Mick Boylan & Carol Hellen