

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

ST PETER & ST PAUL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FABRIC COMMITTEE 2004

The role of the Fabric Committee is to oversee all matters relating to the fabric of the church buildings and their surrounds. Most of the committee's work is preparatory, producing clear plans for the PCC and the Diocese to consider and agree.

In this coming year there will be several projects coming to fruition, whose preparation has taken several years. In the case of the floodlighting, it has taken nearly ten years of planning. What has allowed the PCC to undertake these projects has in a large part been the generosity of parishioners in their bequests. The details of these gifts will not be lost as the PCC is updating the Book of Donors which was established when the Church was rebuilt.

In the coming months the floodlighting of the Church will be completed. Inside, the guard rails will be fitted to both the old and new organ lofts, and the lighting to the sanctuary will be replaced with high level track lighting. This will improve the level of light in the sanctuary as well as lighting specific areas such as the altar, reredos and choir. It will also make it easier to see the vicar during his sermons!

Other work which is in the latter stages of preparation is the refurbishment of the rooms' kitchen and toilets, and the fitting of an accessible toilet. The PCC have engaged a firm of architects to oversee this work and the repairs to the external stonework of the Church and tower. They are also preparing plans for an access ramp to the Parish Office door and to widen the car park at the east end of the Church. Hopefully this work will be undertaken during the summer holidays.

Another project is the refurbishment of the Children's Chapel. Stimulated by Alison Hodson's offer to paint a mural in the apse in memory of May Stevens, the fabric committee have had a long period of consultation and preparation about changes to the Children's Chapel. Along with mural, the PCC have approved plans to improve the heating and lighting, to remove the priedella, to carpet the sanctuary, to install an induction loop and to replace the chairs. These proposals are currently awaiting the approval of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Other work is still in the preparation stage. A suggestion that photovoltaic cells be installed to generate electricity is being investigated. Changes to the main entrance of the Church have been delayed for the present, until other work has been completed

One area which has generated much discussion in the Fabric Committee and PCC is the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Fabric Committee have surveyed the congregation about 'accessibility' and completed an audit of the Church, rooms and youth centre. Various problems have been highlighted and where possible these are being or have been addressed. For example the new lighting proposed for the sanctuary and the Children's Chapel will be of benefit to those with poor vision as it will improve the lighting levels.

Similarly the installation of an induction loop into the Children's Chapel. However there are other features of the Church and the rooms which will need to be addressed, for example the changes in levels in the ambulatory. This will take further time, planning and money. Accessibility will remain on the PCC's and Fabric Committee's agenda. We are grateful for the views of the congregation, particularly those who have a disability, which may highlight an area we have not considered.

The routine maintenance work has continued over the course of the year both on the Church and the curate's house. The most noticeable work has been the repair and repainting of the gates to the car park. The work outlined in the quinquennial report in 2000 will be completed when the stonework to the tower is finished. However the next report is due in April this year!

One area that I would be grateful for all members of the congregation to be vigilant for, is vandalism. While it is not a major problem, we have had some episodes over the last year, notably graffiti on the walls of the rooms. If you see someone acting suspiciously within the confines of the Church, please inform the police.

My thanks to all the committee members who do so much for the Church; Gerald Elves, Gill Thompson, Tim Yeo, Alec Thompson, David Newton, Philip Townsend and Ernest Yeo.

Finally if you are interested in the work of the fabric committee and would like to serve the Church in a practical way, please do contact me. The committee meets four times a year and considers a wide range of issues. This is interesting and vital work for the Church.

Matthew Young, Churchwarden.
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