

## **The Parish of St George Donnington**

### **Annual Goods and Fabric Report**

**For the year 2025**

The fabric of the historic church is maintained not only as part of the historic heritage of the local community but as a centre and focus for our presence and life in that community, to provide everyone with a place of peace, spiritual renewal, baptism, marriage, funeral and worship.

The Parish Hall is licensed as a place of worship and provides a meeting place for social activities and a centre for the whole community.

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*It is the duty of the Churchwardens, to undertake (or cause to be undertaken) an inspection of the fabric of the church and all articles appertaining to the church at least once in each calendar year and in every year to make a report thereon to the Parochial Church Council, and, on behalf of that Council, deliver that report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.*

*(Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991)*

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Unfortunately, the parish does not currently have any churchwardens, so this report has been prepared on behalf of the Rural Dean as Sequestrator and Interim PCC Chairman, and the PCC.

Whilst this report officially relates to the previous calendar year (2025), as several months have since elapsed, in accordance with our usual practice we have included the latest position for the benefit of parishioners

### **Inventory**

We have undertaken an inventory review and checked all “furniture, property, ornaments and plate” to use the official jargon!

We are pleased to report that all items contained in the 2024/25 inventory have been accounted for, although the place of ‘storage’ for some have changed, in particular items previously kept at the vicarage.

The Inventory and Log Book will be available for examination after the meeting of the APCM.

## **Fabric of the church**

We reported in 2023 that, for the first time, all of the work identified in the previous (2020) Quinquennial Report (the 5 yearly structural inspection by the Diocesan Inspecting Architect) had been completed. However, with such an ancient building issues will continually occur and prompt identification and action reduces the risk of a worsening situation and escalating costs.

A section of the stone string course in the chancel had perished due to water penetration. This was replaced and some external repointing was undertaken to address the source of damp ingress. The cost, including professional supervision, was £3,425 (+vat which was recovered through the Listed Places of Wordship grant scheme.)

### 2025 Quinquennial Inspection

The 2025 Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in October. A number of items were identified and the PCC acted promptly to ensure the work was undertaken as quickly as possible to both prevent costs rising due to further deterioration (particularly weather related issues), and in an attempt to try to recover the VAT through the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, which was due to come to a close at the end of March. Unfortunately, the LPOW scheme ran out of funds well before the year end, so we were unable to recover the VAT.

All of the building repair work has been completed with the exception of replacing 2 coping stones, which had been ordered by the stonemason but were delayed due to a long waiting list at the quarry, as well as a small roof repair which, to minimise costs, is to be undertaken at the same time whilst the contractor and temporary scaffolding is on site. The stonemason has just received the stones which will be fitted shortly.

The cost of this building maintenance work so far has amounted to £12,912, although we did receive a generous grant of £1,000 from the Shippam Trust towards this cost, for which we are extremely grateful. However once complete we will have achieved all of the QI works once again.

As the church is a Grade 1 listed building any structural work requires us to formally apply for permission, all work has received the necessary approvals.

### Related Inspections

Some years ago, we moved a number of related inspections so that they coincide with the QI Report. These are:

1. 5 Yearly building electrical safety inspection of the church and the Parish Hall
2. Arboricultural Survey of the trees in the churchyard for safety and health

3. One of the Lightning Protection System inspections, which are due every 2 ½ years

We regret to report that although it was ordered in good time we have been let down by the electrical surveyor who, despite being chased several times, has not undertaken a survey/test of the buildings. We have obtained the name of an alternative company which has experience of churches and are hoping to have that completed soon

The aboricultural survey was completed and some work is required. This will not be undertaken until the autumn in order to avoid disturbing birds and other wildlife. We have been seeking prices for the work but again, as it is a particularly busy time of year for the contractor these have yet to materialise.

The Lightning Protection inspection/test was carried out and the system is satisfactory.

### Organ

The maintenance of the organ is overseen by our expert, Alan Thurlow, to whom we are extremely grateful. The PCC delegated a budget to Alan for maintenance to ensure this can be routinely and efficiently dealt with without reference to the PCC.

### **Parish Hall**

The Hall continued to be maintained in a good state of repair with thanks to the Hall Management Team and its Chairman, Paul Hickey, Tim Blackmore the volunteer caretaker and Judith, our voluntary Bookings Secretary, whose hard work means that the Hall continues to serve the whole community and bookings remain high which helps to pay the bills!!

Unfortunately, as will be reported elsewhere, Paul is having to stand down due to pressure of work, and we extend our thanks to him.

### **Safety**

We are pleased to report that all of the routine annual/statutory safety inspections/ tests in respect of the hall and the church were completed on time, namely:

- Portable Electrical Appliances,
- Fire Extinguisher Servicing.
- Visual Inspection of the Lightning Protection System (Church only)

In addition, the emergency lighting and smoke detectors in the Hall are checked regularly by the Hall Management Team and the First Aid Boxes are checked in both locations.

**May 2025**