

Report of the fabric goods and ornaments of St Martin's Church Ruislip for 2024

Much of our focus in 2024 was in relation to our Church Hall as a significant amount of refurbishment work has been undertaken and completed. This project started in November 2023 after receiving a grant from HS2 for much of the work carried out and was finally completed in November 2024. Completion of the work has provided a safer environment for local community groups to meet, having eliminated several personal safety concerns, such as the trip hazards on pathways surrounding the hall, flooring issues in the small hall, and slip hazards from the leaking roof and old toilet flooring. The new windows and entrance door have also enhanced security and safety, with the new windows being easier to open without having to stand on chairs or tables; whilst also having mechanically restricted opening such that young church hall users cannot climb out! The new boiler has ensured users are warm, enabling them to perform activities effectively. The toilet facilities are now modern, pleasant and much easier to keep clean. The disabled toilet in particular is much more functional with improved equipment; and the addition of a second baby-change facility has made a significant difference to toddler group meetings. Furthermore, the new curtains have had a positive effect on individuals using the space, with feedback received on how calming our choice of bluish green curtains is. In addition to the HS2 project, we significantly improved the Hall lighting with new and more efficient LED units.

We also undertook ground works to improve access at the High Street entrance to the Graveyard behind the Hall and various Tree Pruning initiatives.

It has been recommended that there be a complete renewal of the roof covering to the north face of the chancel using new handmade tiles together with remaking the eaves and abutments together with minor pointing repairs to adjacent parapet, stonework and other masonry. This section of the roof is in very poor condition and there is concern about water egress and damage to the roof structure if this work is not carried out with some urgency. We are launching our "Raising the Roof for the Future" campaign to support these urgent repairs and are aiming to raise a further £74,365 on top of a £30,000 grant from the Diocese Willesden Area Building's Fund and £20,000 from our Restoration Reserve. Once we have raised sufficient finances, we hope surveys and planning will start in the Autumn and that the works will be undertaken in Spring 2026.

The statue of our patron St Martin was fully refurbished, and we are grateful for the legacy donation from a parishioner which allowed this to be carried out.

The Paschal Candle stand was cleaned and regilded. Thank you to John Ormshaw who undertook this task.

The carpet in the belltower has been replaced, and we are once again grateful for the kind donation from a parishioner which enabled this.

Ongoing minor repairs such as replacing floodlights, checking gutters etc have continued to be carried out.

Thanks go to Derek Cunliffe for his hard work keeping the churchyard tidy, to Malcolm Roberts for always being on hand to deal with minor issues that arise, and

to Alan Seymour and the sacristy team for keeping the silver and linens etc well maintained and supplies ordered.