

CHURCH ROOMS REPORT

This past year has been like no other, impacting on every aspect of people's life throughout the world. There has been significant loss on many levels and huge uncertainties. It has been extremely challenging and very sad.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Church Rooms had to close in March 2020 and remained closed for most of the year.

The Guildford Diocesan Safeguarding Contacts are displayed on the noticeboards along with helplines.

In April 2020 it was planned for new electric heaters to be fitted. These would be more cost effective than the current gas heaters that require servicing every year. The new heaters will be wall mounted. The old heaters will be dismantled, the gas supply capped off and the heaters disposed of at the same time. Sadly this work could not be undertaken due to going into lockdown and in accordance with Government and the Church of England regulations the Church Rooms had to close. Earlier this week Sally Harrison met with the contractors and it is hoped that this work can be undertaken very shortly.

Looking forward we are getting quotes for replacing the lights in the hall, as these no longer meet current standards; also considering options for improving the hot water supplies to the kitchen and toilets. The fire and gas safety checks have been completed and fire extinguisher checks have been undertaken when the Church Rooms were open. PAT testing will be undertaken in the near future.

During 2020 when the Church Rooms have been open we have used the services of Lynda Collins who cleans the rooms weekly. The Gardeners attend every 8 weeks for two hours. (When Covid Regulations have permitted)

Unfortunately due to the Covid pandemic the Committee have only been able to meet twice in 2020. Our second meeting was very kindly hosted by Christine Lavender in her garden last Summer. This was a planning meeting with a view to reopening the Church Rooms ensuring all the Covid regulations were met and in place for Hirers to be safe. Risk Assessments for all groups had to be completed before using the Church Rooms. Sally spent significant time reading through all the regulations, devising checklists and ensuring that the Church Rooms were Covid safe. This was a huge undertaking and required many hours of work and commitment. I would like to thank Sally on behalf of the Committee and the Church Room Hirers for her tireless efforts.

Only a few groups returned in the Michaelmas term 2020 and then the Church Rooms had to closed again for the second National lockdown.

We are really pleased that in the last few weeks we have had a number of enquiries from Groups wishing to return to the hall, and several enquiries from new groups.

I would like to thank the members of the committee - Sally Harrison, Mary Campbell, Christine Lavender, Angela Grimshaw and the Group representatives Peggy Foster and Pat Randles - for their continued support and hard work.

Helen Sloan
Church Warden with responsibility for the Church Rooms