**St Barnabas and St Thomas the Martyr Churches Fabric Report 2023**

The highlight for the year at St Thomas the Martyr was the completion of the first phase of nave roof project. Funds were raised to replace a section of the chancel and nave roof which had been in a very bad state of repair. We received a grant from a diocesan fund and also from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Much work remains to be done in the future at St Thomas’s Roof, Clock and internal fabric.

At St Barnabas the Church Clock had stopped working as many people in the area had noticed. Through the generosity of *My Jericho* and various others this was repaired and now keeps good time.

Unfortunately, the hour chime has since stopped working. This is an un-associated issue to the clock and we are now waiting for this to be attended to by the Cumbria Clock Company.

During the year the boiler at St Thomas the Martyr broke down and was considered unrepairable. Having received a second opinion, the (very old) gas boiler has now been repaired and for the time being it is working. A replacement boiler would be very costly, and it is extremely hard to obtain replacement parts for this type of boiler. We now need to plan for a replacement solution should the boiler once again fail.

Apart from these matters, the main fabric duties included general maintenance including fire extinguishers, St Barnabas Roof CCTV, gutter cleaning, an electrical condition report at St Thomas the Martyr, and the necessary upgrades required by that.

The Probation Service ‘Community Pay back team’ continues to support both churches in providing groups to maintain the outside areas by doing gardening.

A large part of my work has been to oversee the maintenance and repair of our three properties: 47 & 50 Cardigan Street and John Combes’s House. We have been trying to sell No 47 Cardigan Street in order to raise urgent capital, and it has been a fraught and long process. We remain hopeful that the sale can be completed very soon.

Last year I expressed the wish to pass the work of Fabric Officer on to someone else. I hope that this year someone will come forward.

*Claire Herbertson*