

In 2025, the PCC Fabric committee comprised Nick Brown (Chair), Gareth Roberts-Davies (Facilities and Systems Manager), Liz Welton, Ian Kay and Ian Best. The Committee meets monthly, discussing maintenance, repairs and matters including the churchyard and trees. The group reviews progress, commissions work, determines priorities and plans future works subject to approval by PCC. Gareth retired at the end of 2025. Ian Best stood down at the beginning of the autumn. The group would like to place on record their thanks to Gareth and Ian for their contributions.

Mark Prescott is the new Facilities Manager and Tony Lumb joined the group from early 2026. Mark reports to Helen Allen (Operations Manager), who receives all papers.

The fabric of the church buildings continues to remain in satisfactory condition. The Quinquennial architect is James Phillips of APEC architects.

Status of works on KPC buildings:

i. Church

There are no material issues currently with the Church. The quinquennial inspection raised no items of significance. Our attention was drawn to likely future costs of repair to the south aisle roof though this is not anticipated to be during the life of this 5 year inspection. Restoration work following the archaeologists' excavations has been undertaken to a very high standard. The restoration of the ancient chests, dating back to the 15th century have been cleared of worm and beetle and the hinges and clasps restored by a professional conservator. We will be renewing the heating controls due to unreliability of the old system. Efflorescence has reappeared in the vestry. This is again being dealt with more broadly to try to dry out the stonework in that area.

ii. St John's Hall

The endemic problems of the hall floor expansion continue. Whilst this has been offset by the use of dehumidifiers in the summer months, we are looking at a more semi-permanent dehumidifying solution. In seeking expert architectural and heating advice on the hall floor we have been told that the cost of replacement would be likely in the order of £250k. At this stage it would not be economic or affordable, and the PCC determined that we would not replace the floor until after the main reordering is concluded. Hence, pursuing an approach that used semi-permanent dehumidifiers to prevent the floor expanding. The partition screens whilst safe, are awkward to use and work was carried out recently to rectify their "stickiness". Electrical inspection was carried out in February 2026.

iii. Guild House

The floor of the Guild House has been very effectively restored and looks amazing now and has no loose blocks. The damp in the entrance has been dealt with and recently damp work in the toilet and decorative work in the entrance and stairway were completed.

iv. Churchyard

The cycle of inspection and maintenance continues with work programmed as and when needed.

The upkeep of the ancient and more modern church estate remains a considerable challenge. Over the last year we have been able to address some more of the issues that have presented over the years. The reordering project will enable some of the structural issues to be addressed but that will give benefit over the longer term.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC has appointed a Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda at every PCC business meeting. Regular safeguarding reviews are held and updating of course attendance throughout the year.

The required notice having been given, a revised church electoral roll was compiled on 2 April 2026, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Details of the new electoral roll have been available via the Parish Office from 7 April until this evening.

The number on the new roll (April 2026) is 478 . This is 3 less than as at the time of the APCM in May 2025. During the intervening period, there have been 8 additions and 11 deletions – 7 due to death and 4 to people moving away.

282 people on the new electoral roll (59 %) live in the parish and 196 people (41%) live outside the parish – the same ratio as 2025.

Knowle Parish Church is in the Yardley and Solihull Deanery of Birmingham Diocese. There are nearly 30 churches in the Deanery, which stretches from Ward End in the north to Knowle in the south. In general the Deaneries spread out from Birmingham centre like spokes on a wheel, to ensure a good demographic mix of churches in each Deanery. Therefore, although we are physically close to St Phillip's, Dorridge, that church is in a different Deanery (Shirley). Other churches in the Deanery with which we have links are St John's Sparkhill (home of the Narthex Project), and St Christopher's Springfield, and we also have links with local rural churches in our Oversight Area.

Deanery Synod met three times last year, in February, June and October. Subjects discussed included Conflict Resolution, Safeguarding, Mission, Transforming Church, and Birmingham Diocese's (ultimately successful) bid for central CofE funding to support Leadership, Parish Growth and Church Planting / Revitalisation.