# Acle Annual Reports for Year ending December 2024.

Fabric Report

There is much to report re the fabric at St Edmund’s as a result of:

       1. The Quinquennial Report.

       2. The Access for Acle Campaign.

The Quinquennial Report:

Nicholas Warnes, Architect carried out an inspection of St Edmund’s for the Quinquennial Report. Steps need to be taken with certain aspects of the church, namely the disposal of waste water from the kitchenette and the heavy oak covers associated with this. In due course the entire drainage system of St Edmund’s needs attention. Unfortunately, funds are limited and the government induced uncertainty re the VAT status of listed buildings will not help this situation indeed the National Lottery’s decision to soft pedal on grants for church buildings is also something of an issue. Basically, the current problems centre around the the tower and the condition of the flagpole and the gutters and drainage channels around the church. The churchyard has a serious problem with Ivy. Recently the Acle Men’s shed removed the ivy growth from the perimeter wall of the church and once birds have finished nesting it is hoped work will continue to remove Ivy from some of the larger tombs; this will make a huge difference. Sadly there is intermittent damage to some of the memorials caused by overenthusiastic mowing (undertaken by grass cutters employed by the Parish Council to whom we are very grateful). The windows and external walls of the church are in reasonable condition but the central buttress on the north side of the nave needs re-pointing. It is suggested that this would cost £4000 or so. Fortunately the church does not have a bat problem, an issue that blights many ancient buildings leading to the fouling of fitments etc

The gates on the north side of the church will be painted when I am fit enough to do so; I appreciate that this has been promised for many months now.

The church is warm and welcoming, I note that the architect is critical of the existence of the chimney to the old solid fuel boiler of days of yore. I should like to point out that we were told to retain this when the new boiler was installed by the architect then involved indeed the decaying stonework included in the chimney was replace at considerable expense.

Access for Acle.

A certain amount of successful fundraising has been undertaken to improve access to the church especially for disabled visitors. It is estimated that this will cost about £120,000. Personally I think if embarked upon £250,000 would be a more realistic figure as the raising of the floor is envisaged. Access to the church is important for all who form the village community, not only those who are disabled. Although there is much new building in Acle few of the new residents show any inclination to attend services although there is a Church of England Primary School now an academy. Children and staff do attend the church for major Festivals and the Harvest Festival and Christingle services. It remains to be seen if the funds can be raised by an increasingly elderly and diminishing congregation.

Rodney EDRICH