

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW AT DEOPHAM

in the Rural Deanery of Humbleyard, the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, the Diocese of Norwich and the County of Norfolk.

THE SECOND QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT

prepared as required by the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 jointly for Deopham Parochial Church Council and the Church Commissioners for England being Lay Rectors in the Parish of Deopham by Messrs. Birdsall & Swash, Chartered Architects & Diocesan Surveyors, No.3, Pottle's Alley, Hingham, Norfolk, NR9 4HS. Telephone : Attleborough (0953) 850569.

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NHB:JMH

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Deopham church consists of a west tower, nave with north and south aisles and a south porch, and a chancel. Apart from the fittings which are in the main later, the building is almost entirely of the decorated and perpendicular periods of architecture. The latest part of the ancient fabric in the tower known to have been completed in about 1480. It is of an interestingly eclectic design having much in common with Hingham about three miles away and a hundred years earlier. Like the earlier tower at Hingham, Deopham has massive scale, the diagonal infill between the corner buttresses, the vine scroll decoration etc. At Deopham however there is a fine flushwork parapet with unusual gable shapes in the centre of each side and hexagonal corner turrets. The nave, south nave arcade and south aisle are fourteenth century. The north nave arcade and north aisle are of the fifteenth century. The chancel is of the earlier period too. The nave roof is original fifteenth century, as is the south porch. The south door is contemporary. One of the bells is of about 1350, the others are of the eighteenth century. There is some seventeenth and eighteenth century woodwork in the church and remains of the dado of the sixteenth century chancel screen. There is some mediaeval glass in the north aisle.

02 INTRODUCTORY NOTES TO THIS REPORT

02.01 Previous Inspection

One previous inspection has been made and a report prepared as required by the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955. This was in February 1961 by J. Owen Bond & Son architects of Norwich. I have not seen a copy of this first report.

02.02 This Inspection

This inspection was carried out during two visits on Friday 24th June 1983 and Monday 19th September 1983.

02.03 Limitations of the Survey

The roofs externally and internally were examined in detail through binoculars. The tower was ascended as far as roof level. Internally no furniture was moved, wainscoting pulled forward or boards or tiles lifted. The bells were not sounded or the organ played. Whilst a perfectly conscientious inspection was made therefore, no guarantee can be given that defects not noted do not exist. The recommendations are given without the opportunity of having a builder open up otherwise invisible portions of the structure.

02.04 Report not Specification

This is a report only with recommendations and approximate estimates. It is not a specification and work should not be carried out on the basis of this report alone and an architect's specification should always be sought. Even with minor works of a maintenance nature the architect should check the builder's work proposals in detail in order to avoid errors.

02.05 Faculties and Archdeacon's Certificates

For any work, other than routine maintenance, either a Faculty or an Archdeacon's Certificate is required. I should be pleased to help with these as appropriate, provide the necessary forms etc.

02.06 Apportionment of Liability

The Parochial Church Council of Deopham are responsible for the maintenance of the tower, the nave (including the east wall and chancel arch), north and south nave aisles, and south porch and their contents together with the fittings, fixtures and all the ornaments in the chancel as well as its heating, lighting and decoration. The churchyard is also in their charge.

The lay rector in the parish of Deopham is responsible for the upkeep of the fabric of the chancel though the liability of the lay rector extends only to maintaining the fabric in a "wind and watertight" condition as described in Halsbury's Laws Volume 13, Ecclesiastical Law, Part 6, Section 2, pages 400 to 405, paragraphs 893 to 900 in the 1955 edition. Therefore technically the lay rector is responsible for keeping the windows glazed though not necessarily in coloured or stained glass; the internal plaster or render is usually assumed to be his responsibility, as is the floor. It is an absolute rule that the Parochial Church Council must not incur any expense on the lay rector's behalf without first discussing the nature of the work and the cost with the lay rector and obtaining approval and consent before any work is put in hand. The items in section 03 of this report for which the lay rector is responsible are marked with an asterisk (*).

02.07 The Next Inspection

The Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 requires that a further inspection be made and a report prepared sometime in 1988.

03 A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF THE FABRIC

03.01 RAINWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM

03.01.01 Tower

The water from the tower roof discharges through lead gargoyles chutes to north and south. This is a perfectly normal and orthodox method of rainwater disposal and I have no suggestions to make for its improvement.

03.01.02 Nave, Aisles and Porch

There are no gutters and downpipes on these eaves and this is not necessarily a shortcoming as there is a good dry area around the bottom of the walls to collect such water as falls into it. It is however important when a building does not have gutters and downpipes as here that the walls, windows and doors below the eaves concerned should be maintained in a good and water-tight condition. This is not universally the case here though this point is discussed below.

03.01.03 * Chancel

On both north and south eaves there are half-round cast iron gutters discharging via hopperheads into cast iron downpipes. There is some vegetation in the gutters which ought to be cleaned out and gutters and downpipes on both sides are in urgent need of repainting. Fairly substantial lengths need to be removed and replaced due to their being cracked and I would suggest that they be remounted in such a way that there is a sizeable gap between the backs of the downpipes and the surface of the walls so that they can be painted easily all the way round in future. A further modification might be to remount downpipes in such a way that the swan-necks can be removed so that the water can fall in a direct line from the gutters at the top to the gullies at the bottom without any bends, offsets, or the like which are potential places of blockage.

03.01.04 Dry Area Round the Church Except the Chancel

All the way round there is a concrete or brick-lined channel sloping to gullies and the churchyard ground is held back by a low brick retaining wall. The eaves above simply drip into this channel as noted in a previous item. The channel itself ought to be cleaned out now and hereafter on a regular basis as a matter of maintenance. Over and above this however there is some repair required throughout, both to the channel itself and to the retaining wall. I was unable in this inspection to carry out a proper test on the drains, though I would like to see this done with a view to establishing whether or not they work as well as they should.

03.01.05 * Dry Area : Chancel

The same design of dry area noted for the rest of the church continues round the chancel and the comments made in the previous item should also apply again here.

03.02 ROOFS

This section excludes the tower roof which is detailed below.

03.02.01 Nave

This is covered in lead sheet which has subsequently and completely been painted over with a bituminous substance, presumably as a result of the roofs leaking. The fact that the bituminous substance was put on suggests defects in the lead which in turn suggests that they should over a period be stripped and relaid. Unfortunately because they have been painted, the secondhand value of the lead will not be nearly so great and the process of stripping, recasting and relaying will therefore be somewhat more expensive than would otherwise have been the case. There is no evidence that these roofs leak at the present time however and therefore this must remain a relatively low priority. Certainly the roof structure appears sound; I was only able to inspect it through binoculars rather than at close quarters. However there is some sign both of water penetration which is now hopefully cured by the application of the bituminous external treatment, at least on a temporary basis, and also some beetle attack. With regard to the beetle attack, I could find no evidence that it was still active though on the other hand, it would be surprising were it not so. My suggestion therefore would be that during the flight season of the beetles (April, May, June or perhaps even into early July) so called "smoke bombs" be released in the church. These give off an insecticidal smoke which will kill a proportion of any beetles present, giving an indication as to the extent and distribution of any beetles in the timber. The only alternative to this is to put up scaffolding, which is expensive, and carry out manual treatment to the carpentry. The release of "smoke bombs" on the contrary is a cheap method and has some effect as a treatment and gives a very positive idea of any problem there might be. There is a considerable amount of streakiness on the inside walls especially the nave, and especially above the westernmost clerestory window on the south side. It is impossible to say in an inspection such as this whether this is a symptom of a problem now cured or whether it still represents some leakage. If the latter, then clearly remedial action must be taken.

03.02.02 North Aisle

Comments made about the first item in this section (03.02.01 Nave) apply equally here.

03.02.03 South Aisle

Comments made about the first item in this section (03.02.01 Nave) apply equally here.

03.02.04 Porch

Comments made about the first item in this section (03.02.01 Nave) apply equally here.

03.02.05 * Chancel

The chancel is covered in red clay pintiles with a decorative Victorian ridge and mortar haunchings in lieu of flashings at both ends of both slopes. A number of the tiles have broken, slipped or laminated; some repairs ought in consequence to be carried out. About half a dozen or so of the decorative finials on the ridge have also broken and these ought in due course to be replaced. I suggest however that this replacement be left until such time as it is necessary to strip and relay the roof. As this time has not yet come and repairs ought to lengthen the life of the roof the lay rector is to be warned that rather more extensive works, such as the stripping and relaying of the tiles, may well be necessary at the time of the next quinquennial inspection in 1988. A subsequent section in this report will suggest the repointing of the east wall of the nave above the chancel roof and at that time I would like to suggest the lay rector considers the possibility of having a lead flashing fixed over the joint between the east wall of the nave and the chancel roof tiles as this would be much more effective and satisfactory than is the current mortar haunching. If at any time in the future it is necessary to lift the stones on the eastern gable parapet (there does not seem to be any necessity to do so in the foreseeable future) then a further lead flashing would be wise at that end too. The general comments made about the internal roof structures in the rest of the church apply equally to the chancel and in any case if "smoke bombs" were let off as suggested in the church itself, then these would include the chancel too.

03.03 WALLS

03.03.01 West Tower

There is a sizeable near-vertical crack down the centre of the west side of the tower and this has been pointed over in the not too distant past (probably at the beginning of this century when I understand the tower was scaffolded). This crack has not opened up subsequently though it can be clearly seen inside and I suspect that were ever the bells rung again the external repair, which is not a particularly good one, would simply fall away. The only real remedy is to grout the crack for the full width of the wall using grout inserted under pressure. This however is of itself not an immediate necessity. At parapet level the tower is fairly stable though it is a pity that the wheel motive in the flushwork on the north side is not complete. I would like to suggest that this be repaired as and when the tower is next scaffolded. The real problem with the tower is that, with the exception of some of the parapets, the whole structure needs to be repointed from top to bottom in a general way; but most specifically it is suffering from the very common problem of flint towers, namely that the worked stone of the buttress facings is coming away from the flintwork of the fabric of the tower itself. This is especially prevalent at high level on the north-west and south-west buttresses. Clearly to deal with the tower in a wholesale way will of itself be a very expensive exercise and the P.C.C. might like to bear in mind two or three possibilities with a view to phasing the work. One is that each side of the tower could be taken separately and if this were done, I would suggest that the east side of the tower be completed before any work is done to the nave or aisle roofs (by way of stripping and relaying as suggested above). This is because it would I am sure be wrong to strip and relay lead roofs and then subsequently have men working above them and that they suffer from the resultant damage that is bound to occur by flints, bits of scaffolding, etc. being dropped onto the new lead from above. A further possibility is that the north-west and south-west angle buttresses alone be scaffolded and the quoin stones be refixed back to the flintwork behind. Both corners could be dealt with at the same time or separately, depending on funds, together with or separate from the adjacent main wall faces of the tower, again depending on funds. There are some vertical and near-vertical cracks in the staircase turrets in the tower and these ought, where they occur, to be cut out and repointed up together with, and at the same time as, the external walls beside them.

03.03.02 Nave

This consists of two clerestories and the east wall of the nave above the chancel roof. There are a great number of bats in this church and one of the most usual points of entrance is underneath the eaves. If the current gap between the top of the flintwork and the underside of the carpentry could be pointed up this would help to eliminate the bats. The clerestories to the north and south are in fair condition. The east wall of the nave above the chancel roof is very poor. The apex cross has fallen off comparatively recently and lies at ground level near the chancel. In addition, the whole of this wall needs to be thoroughly repointed and some of the surface flintwork rebuilt. The coping stones may well need to be totally rebbed. When this work is done, I would strongly recommend that the lay rector be asked to replace the mortar haunching between the wall and the adjacent chancel roof with a lead flashing. There are vertical and near vertical cracks on the north and south walls adjacent to the tower and I believe these to represent simply differential settlement between the tower and the nave and therefore of no very great structural importance. They probably occurred shortly after the construction of the tower. Rather more serious is the cracking through the southern haunch of the tower arch which goes up into the tower above and this certainly ought to be grouted up and pointed over. It can be most easily done above roof level and inside the tower when the east wall of the tower is repointed. Inside the church however it could possibly be left until the interior is next redecorated.

03.03.03 South Nave Aisle

There is a little ivy and other growth (both dead and alive) on the walls of this aisle which must all be stripped off. Some repointing needs to be done throughout mainly on the west and above the windows on the east wall. Towards the top of the south wall also needs attention but I would recommend that this be left until such time as all three walls need attention from top to bottom. An exception might be in repointing between the top of the flintwork and the underside of the roof carpentry to exclude bats as noted in the previous item of this section. Some masonry renewal is also necessary, especially on the buttresses.

03.03.04 South Porch

There is a little vegetation on these walls which ought to be removed, some minor masonry repairs, and were not other works on the building of rather higher priority, I would recommend repointing. However in view of the amount of fairly extensive work which is needed elsewhere, this pointing must of necessity have a somewhat lower priority. An exception to all this is that the principal south door in the porch (but not the hood-mould) has been made of clunch and is breaking down badly. This is clearly a continuing process and more stone has broken away fairly recently. The only real possibility here is to cut out the decaying clunchstone and replace it with new.

03.03.05 North Nave Aisle

The general comments made about the south nave aisle in the previous item apply here again though on this side of the church the condition of the fabric is perhaps slightly worse than the north aisle especially on the west and east ends. Again some repointing and masonry repair is necessary on the buttresses. On the north side there is a crack above the north door and above and below the window next east of it, below the central window and above and below the easternmost window. These can be seen most clearly on the inside of the building. In theory they ought to be cleaned out, grouted up and pointed over, though in practice they are not particularly important cracks from a structural point of view. What I would suggest therefore is that they simply be kept under observation and unless they deteriorate markedly (which I do not anticipate) I would suggest they simply be dealt with along with general repointing as and when that is done in due course.

03.03.06 Chancel

The south wall of the chancel and its associated buttresses ought to be repointed in the fairly near future. In the main the east wall is in fair order though there are at least two cracks running out of the cill of the east window into the ground which ought to be cut out and grouted up, and there are further cracks from the haunches of the east window up into the parapet coping which also ought to be cut out and grouted up working concurrently inside and out. The tracery of the windows has also opened up. Associated with this cracking is a small amount of surface flintwork which has come away and therefore some rebuilding of the flint is also necessary. A little repointing could be done below the plinth on the east end and a small amount of ivy removed. On the north side of the chancel the wall is generally in fair order with one or two fairly major, though

fortunately limited, exceptions. Above the easternmost window there is a sizeable crack with some surface flintwork missing. This crack ought to be cut out, grouted up and pointed over and the surface flintwork rebuilt. Immediately west and east of the central buttress in the top half of the wall there is some repointing which is necessary. The mortar is badly eroded and this therefore is quite an important thing. The north side of the chancel has been rendered in mediaeval times and much of this render remains. It could be that the areas where the mortar of the pointing is now eroded could be rerendered rather than repointed, and this would save a little money, though admittedly not very much.

03.04

INTERNAL DECORATION

It is a great pity that the south porch and the base of the tower are not rendered as was intended by the original design. The fact that they are not rendered detracts greatly from the beauty of this exceptional building. In various places around the outer walls the render is breaking down. This is to some degree as a result of the drainage channel externally becoming blocked, pointing requiring attention, etc. However a very important aspect is that the floor throughout is in the main in hard glazed Victorian tiles which are impervious to moisture so that the rising damp which would evaporate naturally over the whole floor area in a church such as this, is prevented from doing so and is concentrated in the outer walls. The only remedy is to refloor in soft bricks or paviours, but clearly this is an impracticable thing to do. All that can reasonably be done therefore is to remove the decaying plaster and rerender in a very open lime render and then limewash over. It is the same problem of the dampness of the Victorian tiles together with the fact that the wood blocks under the seats have almost certainly been bedded in pitch that has caused the efflorescence that has occurred to the columns of the nave arcade. Currently the chancel has been limewashed out in white, the aisles in a cream colour and the nave not at all. The church will need to be redecorated in the not too distant future and my own preference would be that it all be done in the same colour as the north and south nave aisles. This is a matter for discussion in due course and by no means an immediate necessity.

03.05

TOWER ROOF AND TOWER INTERNALLY

This section does not include comments on the walls themselves as these form part of a previous section (03.03) of this report.

03.05.01

Hexagonal Turret Roofs

These are currently covered in concrete with a small hole to the outside of the tower as an outfall. There is a great deal of growth on the tops of the turrets which ought to be removed as a matter of some importance. I would have preferred to have seen the turrets covered in lead with a proper fairly long gargoyle chute from each. It would be easier to clean out such a gargoyle chute were it to discharge over the principal roof rather than as at present to the outside.

03.05.02

Parapets

There is some cracking on the render with which the parapets are covered internally and whilst this is not of itself particularly serious, I would strongly recommend that such cracks be pointed up because they let water into the structure and this, in the fullness of time, will undoubtedly cause problems.

03.05.03

Tower Roof

The lead on the roof is all in fairly good order and must have been stripped and replaced in the not too distant past, perhaps earlier this century. It has been badly and deeply scratched by vandals. Some of these scratches will undoubtedly be the sites of breakdown in the very near future. In the central sheet on the south side there are a number of deep holes caused by someone driving a sharp object into the lead. On the inside of the north parapet some of the flashing has been stolen. Pieces have been taken out of the flashing on the other side too. These things suggest that a relatively minor exercise consisting of lead-burning repairs and some flashing renewal ought to take place straight away as this will undoubtedly lengthen the life of the lead quite considerably. There is a great deal of grass and other growth on the roof and this is a result of the roof itself not being swept down on a regular basis as it should be. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of regular maintenance whereby someone undertakes to come up onto the roof at least quarterly and sweep it down. There is one lead gargoyle chute to the north and another to the south. These are rather small and all too easily become choked. When the north and south sides of the tower are scaffolded respectively, the opportunity should be taken to increase the sizes of the gargoyle chutes. When in the fullness of time, it is necessary to relay the gutters inside the north and south parapets of the tower (and there is no evidence that this is necessary in the foreseeable future) it should be possible to re-open the westernmost mediaeval gargoyle chutes so that instead of two as at present, there would then be four. However this is a very much longer term improvement.

03.05.04 Tower Roof Door

This needs some repair and the timber treated. The hinges are so rusty as to require renewal and they must thereafter be kept painted unless stainless steel or non-ferrous hinges are used for the replacement.

03.05.05 Upper Staircase

This needs to be swept out and kept clean hereafter. The light-eye should be netted to stop the ingress of birds.

03.05.06 Belfry Louvres

The louvres in the east side and one in the south need to be repaired otherwise the belfry louvres are in excellent condition as is the boarding with which the tracery is covered. Fortunately there are not very many birds inside the tower, largely because the louvres are so close together. However the netting inside is badly rusted and in most places is almost non-existent. This being so, the netting should be renewed and I would suggest that in future plastic-covered welded wire mesh be used rather than chicken wire as hitherto. Although the welded wire mesh is much more expensive, it does last a great deal longer.

03.05.07 Bells and Bellframe

There are five bells hanging in a traditional swastika frame which has been much altered to take them. Much of the frame is completely eaten through with death-watch beetle and there are signs that this beetle attack is still active. Undoubtedly because of the state of the frame the majority of the joints between various timbers have worked loose and there is no question of ringing bells in this present frame. Indeed I would be loathe to agree to any of the bells being rung even by swing chiming. Further I suspect that there is some very real likelihood that odd timbers might fall off the frame as it now stands, so parlous is its condition. As far as the bells themselves are concerned, their fittings are completely derelict and though one bellrope does still go down to pavement level, it must under no circumstances whatsoever be used. There is here a very strong likelihood that the bells could fall and in order to prevent this possibility, I recommend that they be carefully removed from the frame and lowered down to the silence chamber floor level for storage pending a decision on the bells in this tower. There are several possibilities in this respect. At one extreme, four of the five bells could be sold for their scrap worth and the income to the P.C.C. used to rehang the mediaeval bell for swing chiming as a Service bell. I would most certainly not recommend this possibility. The other extreme is represented

by the total rehang of the bells with a new frame, fittings, the crown staples removed from the bells, new clappers, etc. but this is going to cost several thousand pounds. I am always loathe to recommend the removal of a frame, partly because of its antiquarian interest, and partly because it is often more economic to treat the timber and leave it in-situ than to remove it. In that case the new frame would be put in below the old. However there are certain problems at Deopham with keeping the existing frame. Firstly, at least in part, it is unsafe, and secondly, the present frame is probably in the best place. That being so it would clearly be wrong to do other than supersede it with a new frame. Conventional current thinking, especially by bell hangers and bell founders who have a vested interest, is that modern frames should be constructed of steel and iron and consequently they are very expensive, their construction being specialised work. However I see no reason whatsoever why a local carpenter should not make a new frame in timber to an approved design and the bells be hung in that. This whole question of the bells at Deopham is a matter which requires considerable thought and discussion and I would be pleased to meet the P.C.C. for such a discussion in due course. The Diocesan Bells Advisor has prepared a report on the bells, bell fittings and bellframe, and a copy of this is appended to this report as it is entirely relevant to the overall discussion.

03.05.08 Belfry Floor

The timbers here appear to be fairly sound though only the support carpentry is left, the boarding having been removed. In any rehang exercise I would recommend that if at all practicable, the support timbers remain and be reboarded over to make a new belfry floor. Because of the amount of beetle attack in the frame there is every likelihood that this continues into the belfry floor carpentry which should be treated. In the interim the timbers should be carefully cleaned down as there is a considerable amount of rubbish on them.

03.05.09 Central Staircase

The condition of this is good though it should be brushed down now and kept clean hereafter. The light-eyes should be netted to stop the ingress of birds.

03.05.10 Silence Chamber Light-Eyes

These have very adequate louvres in them though one vane is missing from the western opening and this ought to be repaired. The boarding with which the tracery is filled however leaves something to be desired and a rather better method could be devised. The netting inside is now coming to the end of its useful life and should be renewed when the belfry windows are wired over above.

03.05.11 Silence Chamber Windlass and Cupboards

The iron parts on these items should be carefully brushed down and treated; and the timber, especially on the vertical support of the windlass, is badly affected by beetle and must be treated.

03.05.12 Silence Chamber Floor

This is currently filthy and must be cleaned down now and hereafter on a regular basis as a matter of maintenance. Seen from the underside however it appears to be in fair condition and the main timbers would seem to require very little attention.

03.05.13 Lower Staircase

The staircase itself is in good order though it ought to be brushed down now and regularly hereafter as a maintenance item. The light-eyes are glazed. The ironwork on the doors at the top and bottom of this staircase ought to be wire brushed down and painted and the timber on both treated. In the recess at the bottom of the stairs there is a great number of items which could almost certainly be disposed of and this would lead to general tidiness.

03.05.14 Hinging Gallery

On a line with the cill of the principal west window can be seen a doorway which has been bricked up. If ever the bells were rehung then clearly there would be something to be said for creating a ringing gallery at this level and opening up the door. This is an expensive item and something very much for the future.

03.06 FLOORS AND FLOOR MONUMENTS

At the base of the tower there are pavements and the south porch is flagged. Elsewhere throughout the church there are wood blocks underneath the pews and Victorian tiles elsewhere, rather * more elaborate in the sanctuary, but basically the same type throughout. In one or two places there are ledger slabs set * into the floor. In the choir stalls there are boarded floors. All appear to be in perfectly satisfactory condition except for a minor repair with regard to the boarding under the southern * bank of the pews in the chancel.

03.07 DOORS AND SCREENS

03.07.01 Outer Grille Gates on South Porch

These require some attention and, in the not too distant future, the wire will have to be removed. At present however the iron ought to be painted and the timber treated. There is a lock on

these gates but no key was provided during the inspection. The interior of the church would benefit from better ventilation and if it is really necessary to keep it locked, then it would be better for these grille gates to be locked and the principal south door left open. A similar grille gate could be made, say, over * the north door or the chancel door, or even the tower door left open, then a through draught would be so much the greater.

03.07.02 Principal South Doors

The timber on these ought to be treated and the ironwork painted to preserve it. The doors hang and swing well and are in a perfectly satisfactory condition.

03.07.03 Principal West Doors

I was unable to open these during the course of the inspection, but the general comments made about the south doors in the previous item (03.07.02) apply equally here.

03.07.04 North Door

I was unable to open this during the course of the inspection but again the comment that the ironwork be painted and the timber treated, apply.

03.07.05 * Priest's Door

A key was provided for the chancel door and it worked well and easily. The door hangs and swings well. There would be some considerable advantage in the timber of it being treated and the ironwork painted.

03.07.06 Tower Screen

This is a modern construction, and though rather simple and modest in design it serves its purpose adequately.

03.07.07 Mediaeval Screen

There is a portion of mediaeval screen immediately west of the organ in the south aisle and two further pieces leaning against the aisle wall which have lost their dowels and are fastened together with string. These scarcely continue to serve any very useful purpose but they are nevertheless important historically and from an antiquarian point of view. It is wrong that they cannot be treated in a rather better way than is currently the case. Their looks would be greatly improved were they to receive the attentions of an expert conservator. In fact such conservation may well attract grant aid and I would be very pleased to make enquiries about this possibility on behalf of the P.C.C. if they wish me to do so.

03.08 PENETRATION

03.08.01 Tower West Window

The ironwork in this window is breaking the stone badly and needs repair. The glazing is very poor and needs to be releaded throughout. Iron when it rusts expands and it is this expansion that breaks the stone. In any reglazing of the window the iron should be removed and replaced with a non-ferrous metal. There is an opening ventilator in this window and it might be that it could be removed and replaced with a fixed light when reglazing is done. The condition of this window is amongst the worst in the church and it must therefore have a high priority.

03.08.02 South Aisle : West Window

The glazing here is in poor condition and should be reglazed. The ironwork needs repainting if it is not to be reglazed immediately.

03.08.03 South Porch : West Window

The glazing here is in poor condition and needs to be releaded or even reglazed altogether. The ironwork should be painted to preserve it as an urgent thing.

03.08.04 South Porch : East Window

This is in slightly better condition than the west window opposite but nevertheless it is important that the ironwork be repainted.

03.08.05 South Aisle : South Side : Westernmost Window

This is like the west window (03.08.02) but in far better condition. Indeed one panel has recently been releaded and its condition therefore is good. However it is important that the ironwork be painted.

03.08.06 South Aisle : South Side : Central Window

The condition of this is fair. Most of the western light has been releaded recently but the eastern light contains an iron-framed ventilator which could too be reglazed in fixed glass. For the time being the ironwork ought to be painted.

03.08.07 South Aisle : South Side : Easternmost Window

The glass is bulging badly but still remains tight and therefore it may be possible to delay releading this window for a little while longer. The opening ventilator might be glazed and fixed in future.

03.08.08 South Aisle : East Window

The ironwork in rusting has caused considerable damage to the stonework. The glazing though buckled, remains reasonably tight and it might be possible to avoid releading during the course of the quinquennium even if the ironwork is replaced.

03.08.09 * Chancel : South Side : Westernmost Window

The western light is fair but the eastern light is poor. There is some considerable damage to the stonework due to ironwork rusting and breaking the mullions internally.

03.08.10 * Chancel : South Side : Easternmost Window

Apart from a relatively small rectangle which has been releaded in the fairly recent past, the glass in the whole of this window is in a parlous condition and ought to be releaded sooner rather than later during the quinquennium. There is some good glass here (as elsewhere in the church) of perhaps 200 years of age, and it is important therefore that releading rather than reglazing be done.

03.08.11 * Chancel : East Window

Mainly the glazing is diamond quarries with rectangular borders but there are two other panels, one consisting of two large pieces of plate glass, and the other of glazing in leaded rectangles. The state of this window is poor and it ought to be releaded during the coming quinquennium. Some stonework repairs should be done and the ironwork renewed in non-ferrous metal.

03.08.12 * Chancel : North Side : Easternmost Window

The general comments made about the easternmost window on the south side apply equally here.

03.08.13 * Chancel : North Side : Westernmost Window

The comments made about the westernmost window on the south side of the chancel opposite apply equally here.

03.08.14 North Aisle : East Window

Above the three principal lights there is a horizontal transom and above that a considerable amount of mediaeval glass. The mediaeval glass is in fair condition though it could doubtlessly be releaded to advantage so as to make rather more sense of the design. Below the transom the glazing is fair only, but the iron ferramenta ought to be wire brushed down to bright metal, treated with a rust retardant and painted to preserve it. Almost certainly this window will need to be reglazed in the next quinquennium starting in 1988.

- 03.08.15 North Aisle : North Side : Easternmost Window
There is no mediaeval glass in this window but the general comments made about the east window in the aisle in the previous item applies equally here.
- 03.08.16 North Aisle : North Side : Central Window
In design and condition like 03.08.14 above.
- 03.08.17 North Aisle : North Side : Westernmost Window
In design and condition like 03.08.14 above.
- 03.08.18 North Aisle : West Window
Though not in design, in condition like the three windows on the north side of this aisle.
- 03.08.19 South Nave Clerestory : West Window
This is a simple two-light window the glazing in which is in fairly good order. I suspect the time is not too far ahead when re-glazing will be necessary, but that time has not as yet come.
- 03.08.20 South Nave Clerestory : Second Window from the West
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.21 South Nave Clerestory : Second Window from the East
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.22 South Nave Clerestory : Easternmost Window
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.23 North Nave Clerestory : Easternmost Window
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.24 North Nave Clerestory : Second Window from the East
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.25 North Nave Clerestory : Second Window from the West
In design and condition like 03.08.19.
- 03.08.26 North Nave Clerestory : Westernmost Window
In design and condition like 03.08.19.

03.09

FURNITURE AND FITTINGS

I have been right through the church and examined all these in some detail and apart from normal maintenance, all seem to remain in fairly good order. In one or two places there are signs of beetle attack, mainly furniture beetle, and I would recommend that the people who clean the church be asked to treat these on a local basis as and where they occur. This can very simply be done by the P.C.C. purchasing a tin of preservative fluid and a new brush and brushing it on where necessary. I do wonder whether there might be some superfluous furnishings in this church. For instance I can see no real reason for retaining the two banks of pews at the western ends of each aisle or the two benches at the west end of the nave. There are more than enough seats elsewhere and in any case I think the church may look rather better if it were less cluttered in this area. Underneath the tower there is a very great number of items and it must be the case that many of these can be removed to advantage.

03.10

WALL MONUMENTS, PICTURES, NOTICES, ETC.

Surprisingly there are very few of these in the church. I have looked at such as there are and all appear to be perfectly satisfactory, though I would like to suggest that perhaps some rather better noticeboards be fixed in the porch. This however is an eventual improvement rather than an immediate necessity.

03.11

INSTALLATIONS AND SERVICES

03.11.01

Water

There is a standpipe in the churchyard but I understand that this has been cut off due to the excessive water rates the Water Authority propose to charge.

03.11.02

Electricity

The paraffin lamps in the nave have all been converted to electricity. Two of them have missing shades and these ought to be replaced. All of them need repainting and some of them need some repair too. It is important that this be done otherwise they will deteriorate further. In the chancel there is some fluorescent lighting and it may well be that this could be replaced in due course by something rather more sympathetic to the building. Indeed in due course, all the lighting in the church could be improved to advantage, that in the nave being supplemented by additional lights. Throughout there are a number of socket outlets and in addition one or two electric heaters. Unless a qualified electrician has tested these within say, the last five years, they ought to be tested now. Either I can make the arrangements for this to be done or alternatively if the P.C.C. wish to make their own arrangements, I should be grateful of a copy of any report an electrician might make.

03.11.03 Bottled Gas

There is some supplementary heating provided by mobile cabinet-type bottled gas heaters. These are said to be very effective though a word of warning must be that when gas burns it gives off a great deal of moisture and this in turn may have an injurious effect on the fabric of the building. This only emphasizes the importance of the point made elsewhere that good ventilation be maintained.

03.11.04 Fire Extinguishers

I could find no fire extinguishers in the church and this is a shortcoming that ought to be made good as a matter of some urgency.

03.11.05 Lightning Conductor

There is no lightning conductor on the tower and it is a moot point as to whether there should be one. In theory all towers of this sort ought to be fitted with a lightning conductor, but in practice the P.C.C. may well think that there are other higher priorities for what are undoubtedly limited funds at their disposal.

03.12 CHURCHYARD

03.12.01 Boundaries

In the main the boundary of the churchyard is marked by a hedge. This is well cut all the way round and perfectly in order. To the south there is a short length of fencing which is presumably the responsibility of the property owners on that side. Towards the south-west corner of the churchyard there are the remains of a flint wall, but this is now so broken down as to make it impossible to repair it: rather it must be rebuilt if it is wanted.

03.12.02 Gates

There are a pair of iron gates west of the church onto the road. These ought to be repaired (they do not meet properly at the centre) and then ought to be wire brushed down, treated with a rust retardant and repainted.

03.12.03 Paths

The only gravel path is from the gates in the western boundary to the south porch. There are a few weeds beginning to appear on this and they should be treated with a weed killer. Otherwise such paths as do exist are simply over the grass.

03.12.04 Grass

The grass is cut short to the west, north and south of the church and for most of the area to the west. Well away from the church however on the eastern side there is a relatively small area which is somewhat overgrown. This is by no means a shortcoming and ought not to attract criticism. A number of untended graves have mounds on them or kerbs round them and these must make mowing rather difficult. I should like to suggest that where graves are no longer tended in this way, the mounds be levelled and the kerbs be removed. I would however repeat that this suggestion applies to only where the graves are no longer tended. Where they continue to be tended, there is no problem in this respect.

03.12.05 Graves

In one or two places headstones are leaning over rather badly and they ought to be straightened. Where kerbs on tended graves are working loose they ought to be rebedded in. On one or two of the older headstones there is ivy and other growth and this ought to be cleared off and graves kept weed-free. With the exception of these minor comments the graves are in good order.

03.12.06 Trees

There are few trees in the churchyard especially towards its eastern end and these all appear to be perfectly satisfactory except for a row of dead trees in the eastern boundary hedge which might look rather tidier were they cut out.

A SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND ESTIMATES

Section 03 outlines a considerable amount of work which needs to be done and the list of items below makes no attempt to reiterate these, but instead divides them under four headings. In the first group are maintenance items which should be dealt with now and hereafter on a regular basis. No attempt is made to cost them as many of the items will, and should, be attended to on a voluntary basis. These items are marked 'M' (maintenance) in the list which follows. The second and third groups will need attention in say, the next six months and during the remainder of the quinquennium respectively. These are marked 'U' (urgent) and 'N' (necessary) respectively below. As the work proceeds and time passes the priorities might have to be changed. Against these two categories I have attempted to give some indication of cost. These costs are very much in the nature of guesses, they are intended to be today's prices, but with costs rising as they are at present it is impossible to give anything more than the most approximate indication as to the sums of money that might be involved. The fourth category I have devised marked 'D' (desirable) is not costed as the work outlined in it may well be tackled at so far distant a time that any figures I might quote would become quite unreasonable.

04.01 Rainwater Disposal System

* Repair chancel gutters and downpipes U £500/£600
as necessary and repaint

Clean out gullies and dry area M
generally as necessary

* Similarly clean out chancel gullies M
and dry area

Repoint dry area channel and N £750/£1000
retaining wall generally

* Similarly repoint chancel dry area N £250/£300
channel and retaining wall

Carry out a test of ground drainage U £25/£50

04.02 Roofs

Strip and relay the nave, D
aisle and porch roofs

Carry out "smoke bomb" treatment U/N £20/£25 p.a. for at
least 5 years

* Strip and relay chancel roof D

* Carry out interim repairs to U/N £100/£150
chancel roof

Paint ironwork N £100/£150

Create ringing gallery D

04.06 Floors and Floor Monuments

* Deal with boarding under N £150/£200
chancel pews

04.07 Doors and Screens

Treat timber and repaint ironwork N £400/£500
on external doors except in chancel

* Treat timber and repaint ironwork N £50/£75
on priest's door

Seek expert conservators advice U (probably no charge)
about mediaeval screen

04.08 Fenestration

Reglaze principal west window in tower N £1500/£1750

* Reglaze the east window in the chancel N £2500/£3000

* Reglaze the four windows on the north N £1250/£1500 each
and south sides of the chancel

Each year, for the foreseeable future,
allow a sum for reglazing of £2000/£2500

04.09 Furniture and Fittings

Purchase of preservative fluid N £15/£20
and brush

Minor repairs to furniture and M
fittings

Removal of unwanted furnishings D

04.10 Wall Monuments, Pictures, Notices, etc.

Fix better notice boards in the porch D

04.11 Installations and Services

Paint and overhaul light fittings N £100/£125

Test the electrical system U £25/£30

Purchase fire extinguishers U £30/£35 each

Install a lightning conductor D £500/£750)

- * Make new lead flashing at west end of chancel roof N £400/£500
- * Make new lead flashing at east end of chancel roof D

04.03

Walls

To repoint the whole tower on all four sides, grout cracks, carry out masonry repairs, etc.
(and proportionately more for each of a number of smaller phases)

N £15,000/£17,500

Point under eaves of nave D

Repair east wall of nave N

£1250/£1500

Grout cracks in west wall of nave N/D

Repointing on each nave aisle N

£200/£250 (interim repairs)
£5000/£7500 (longer term repairs)

Work to southern arch of porch N

£250/£500

Rest of work to porch N

£1500/£2000

- * Repairing cracks, grouting, repointing and rerendering in chancel N

£5000/£6000

04.04

Internal Decoration

The report is self explanatory in this section.

04.05

Tower Roof and Tower Internally

Put lead on turret roofs D

Repoint parapets U/N

£50/£75

Repair flashings and carry out lead burning repairs U

£100/£125

Sweep down tower roof M

Lengthen gargoyle chutes D

Repair tower roof door U/N

£20/£25

Clean out the interior of the tower M

Renet over light-eyes U

£20/£25

Repair and renet belfry louvres and silence chamber lights U

£250/£300

Rehang the bells D

Treat timber N

£500/£750

04.12

Churchyard

The P.C.C. should try to allow, say, £150/£200 p.a. for general repairs and improvements in the churchyard, over and above the cost of cutting the grass.