

Latest Update

Church Structure

It has probably been well over two years since concerns were raised again over the deterioration of the vertical oak timber beams that are located on the outside of the main entrance into church and adjacent to the Resurrection doors. After several meetings with the structural engineer & building contractors that was usually followed up by either a Fabric & Finance committee meeting &/or PCC meeting to discuss the details, a decision was finally made to sub-contract the work out to remove the vertical beams and replace with new like for like oak timber beams in both locations.

Just prior to the work commencing this August/September the church wardens attended an arranged meeting in church with the Arch Deacon to discuss various matters concerning our church and of which one was the current status of any maintenance work being carried out. Following the disclosure of the intended work on the oak timber beams we were informed by the Arch Deacon that a faculty (DAC planning approval) was required to carry out this work and until then this work had to be put on-hold until the full extent of the problem is identified, the findings & the required scope of work to complete the restoration of the building is recorded & the final dossier for this work is submitted to the DAC for review & planning approval. We are currently in the process of witnessing the investigation being carried out by a DAC approved sub-contractor, who will then report back to the DAC appointed architect with details of the problem.

Robinson Preservation Ltd (RPL) who are the DAC approved sub-contractor for this restoration work have made approximately three visits to church, the latest being on Thursday the 5th. November where they have moved onto investigating the South Aisle timber beam structure. RPL have started to remove the timber fascia panels that are covering the timber beam structure on the South aisle and in doing so have in some areas exposed severe deterioration of the timber beams that has been identified as wet rot and has more than likely been caused by the ingress of & the entrapment of rainwater. RPL's initial thoughts are that the affected timber beams will either need to be locally repaired or sections completely removed & replaced with like for like oak timber beams. These timber beams are currently supporting the walls & roof of the South aisle.

The extent of the restoration work & the required funds will not be realised until all investigations are completed and the reported findings are reviewed by the architect and any other interested parties and the agreed scope of work is approved by the DAC. Although I would expect we would be given an approximate estimate of costings before all the formalities are completed.

When further significant details are provided we will keep you all posted through bulletins in church and on our website.

Phil