

View from the pew

Janet Oldham

Many of you will now have heard we have a problem with the Vestry roof.

"The work revealed that the area along the edge of the roof is profoundly rotted away – reducing to a soil-like consistency."



The boards and edge timbers in this area were wet and one area was found to be heavily infested with larvae.

In order to give you a better understanding of what the problem is, I copy below extracts from the Architect's report, together with her conclusions.



In areas there was no support at all for the asphalt – which was hanging in mid span. The roof was patched back as far as was possible. However, there is a real danger that as the roof dries out under the patch,

the reduction of moisture in the timbers may reach the point at which dry rot is triggered with a real threat to the existing original ceiling linings and joists."

Conclusion:

This area of flat asphalt roof needs removing completely and urgent repairs and replacement carried out to the timbers together with timber treatment to kill any infestation.

As the edge timbers have gone and the firrings have decayed back, it is unlikely that any part of the upper boarding can be saved. In addition, there has also been water ingress at the junction with the pitched roof section due to joint without a fillet.

There is a risk too that the timbers in this area have also been compromised.

It is also in the interests of the preservation of the original ceiling linings and beams that the top surfaces of these are thoroughly investigated, if necessary with patch repairs and treated against infestation. On the balance of preservation of the heritage assets, the internal timbers have priority over the upper roof construction.

The new covering and supports should be reconfigured to reduce risk of moisture vapour from below.

Given that the asphalt is relatively new (1978) and also laid down in a good layer. It would be possible to bond into the pitched roof area – at the same time removing the sharp 90 degree angle which has opened up from time to time allowing ingress of moisture in this area too."

In view of the urgency of the problem highlighted above by our Architect, we have applied for a Grant but will not know until July whether we have been successful.

We are currently investigating other possibilities for grants, whilst awaiting an update from the Architect on the identity of the infestation and whether the projected timescale of opening up and repairing the

roof in August can wait that long. The estimated cost at this stage including VAT and Architect's fees is just under £18,400.

In view of the seriousness of the Architect's findings above, we hope you will feel able to respond to Jo's Easter Donation Envelope appeal. We will have to meet a significant proportion of the cost of these repairs and may well have to meet the full cost, if we are unsuccessful with our application for a Grant.

SPIRITUAL CHURCH

We hope the children who took part in this year's Easter Journey will have enjoyed finding out more about Jesus and the events surrounding his journey through Holy Week. This amazing experience would not have happened without a lot of hard work behind the scenes and we would like to thank Bridge Builders, Andrew Povey-Richards and all their helpers, who ensured it was another great success.

ACTIVE CHURCH

Thanks are also due to the stalwarts who turned out on a very cold Saturday to tidy up the flowerbeds in time for Easter. You will have noticed the ongoing tidying up of the Churchyard as, with the help of the Town Council, we work to improve the sight lines.

CREATIVE CHURCH

Many of you will have noticed the beautiful Altar front for Lent, which has been made by the children of Messy Church, with the help and guidance of the talented Nick Hoyle and team.

A reminder that on **Saturday 21 May** between 10 am – 12 noon we will have our annual Plant Sale & Coffee Morning. This is a great opportunity to stock your garden with excellent value plants, grown by our hardworking green fingered gardeners. As always, contributions to the cake stall and raffle will be very welcome.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Joyful Eastertide.

Love,
Janet