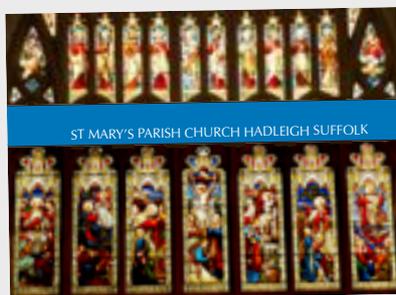


RENEWAL NEWS

Treasuring the Past • Celebrating the Present • Challenged by the Future

New

To be published in January 2019
ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
1000 years of history in word and
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A complimentary signed copy of this book will be presented free to anyone donating £100 or more towards the Renewal Project.

In addition if requested your name or company will be added to the donors list on the renewal notice board in the church.

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CONSERVATION WORK TO OUR ANCIENT SOUTH DOORS

We have been given permission by the Diocese to have some conservation work carried out to the five hundred year old south doors by a timber expert who has worked on other heritage projects of this type. There is some damage to the tracery which will be addressed and the door is out of true so this will be corrected allowing us to draught proof it as we have done on the other three entrance doors to the building.

REPAIR OF THE VESTRY ROOF

Over the summer, our engineers The Morton Partnership Ltd, along with local builders M Chisnall & Sons undertook a closer inspection of the roof and it's underlying structural integrity and we now know that the situation is not as bad as was expected. However the roof had to be made temporarily waterproof and specifications are now being drawn up by the architects for further work that needs to be done including a new waterproof surface treatment.

FUNDING

In or about 1750 the dean and rector of St Mary's Hadleigh, Thomas Tanner gave hospitality in the rectory to the Italian painter Canaletto, who in appreciation for it, presented three pictures to Tanner.

The pictures have hung in the Deanery ever since whenever there was a rector in residence and have been safely stored elsewhere at other times.

In 1945 the Dean, Edward Audley Downes handed over the ownership of the larger painting making it the property of the Parochial Church Council.

In March 2015 the incumbent asked the Diocese to have the pictures valued for insurance and this was conducted by Art & Antiques Appraisals Ltd, London.

The larger painting, was authenticated at this time by Charles Beddington a recognised scholar of 18th century Italian vedutismo as "The Grand Canal with San Simone Piccolo and the Scalzi" by the Italian painter Michele Marieschi (1710-1743).

continued.



by Michele Marieschi (1710-1743)

Similar versions of this painting by Marieschi are held by The Museum of Art, Philadelphia USA and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge UK.

The pair of oils on canvas, were authenticated as 'Roman' Capriccios by the Circle of Pieter van Bloeman (1657-1720) a Flemish painter.

Since 2015 a great amount of research has taken place by various members of the renewal group, local historians and others to make a case to the Diocese establishing the provenance and ownership of the paintings. This information was collated and parish priest Dr John Parr presented it in a final report to the Diocese earlier in the year. In September 2018 we were given permission by the Diocese to sell these paintings should we wish to do so.

These recent valuations have put into perspective the ongoing large premium we will incur each year to cover the cost of insurance of these fine art 18th century paintings. A cost which is not viable within our future financial planning, therefore we have come to the conclusion that we need to place these paintings for sale and we will be working with Jo our new rector and the PCC to find the best possible way of realising a good selling outcome for St Mary's church.

The income raised would provide a capital sum for the Renewal Project to use as match funding for grant applications towards the further updating of our building. They will also be used to augment the maintenance and repair costs to the church fabric which the Friends of St Mary's Church continually support us with through the St Mary's Hadleigh Church Trust.

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We have not had much to share with you during 2018 but as you can see from this news letter we have been working away in the background as a committee on various projects within our remit. We appreciate your interest and support for the Renewal Project and we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.