

RENEWAL NEWS

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



Roof inspection



The Vestry



PRAYER

Dear God, who has led, inspired and encouraged many generations of Christians in St. Mary's Church, we ask you to lead, inspire and encourage our generation. May we diligently serve local people and give inspiration and leadership in our town as we repair and reorder our church. Amen



www.stmarysvisionforhadleigh.com

Charity No. 1140776

WHERE WE HOPE TO START

After a lot of consultation we are now investigating for renewal two areas that have the worst deterioration of the fabric:

- The 15th century Vestry extension with its finely stone-vaulted chamber at ground floor level (the present office) is perhaps in the most need of repair. The 1920 concrete and asphalt roof is leaking and affecting the fabric below. The stone vaulting is cracked due to movement in at least four areas.

- The south aisle leadwork roofing has been showing signs of deterioration for a number of years and in the last inspection report was flagged for 'A PRIORITY MAJOR REPAIR WORKS'.

These two areas will be the focus of our initial application under the Heritage Lottery Fund - Grants for Places of Worship scheme which is being prepared for submission in mid August.

Freeland Rees Roberts architects have surveyed both areas. Structural Engineers are preparing a condition report for the vestry with recommendations for repairs. The condition of the south aisle roof is concerning regarding the number of patch repairs and splits/cracks to the fifty year old leadwork. Some of the lead has been lifted to investigate the underlying roof condition.

They have formatted a Condition Report with photographs, so it can accompany our HLF application.

WHAT IS OUR AIM?

The aim of this initial phase will be to make the most of this beautiful vestry room and to restore it to its original state, incorporating refurbishment of its 15th century panelled seating on the east and west walls. We envisage the room being used as a small meeting room with facilities for explaining the rich heritage of St Mary's and its place within the history of Hadleigh and of England to schools, visitors and other groups.

The work making the south aisle roofing watertight will enable us to move forward with internal works such as the floor, electrics and heating etc.

FOCUS GROUPS

Thank you to all who have attended the first four groups, these have been so useful in finding out what the community would like to see happen to the building in the future.

If you have not been able to attend one of our designated Focus Groups events please feel free to join us at any of the planned future group meetings. We want to hear your views on the future of this building. Next meeting Wednesday 12 July at 7 pm, also meetings on 17th & 24th July.