

CHURCH REPAIRS

Every five years each Parish Church has to arrange a full inspection from an approved Architect. This is called a Quinquennial Inspection. The report from our recently appointed Architect Nick Warns makes challenging reading. As well as a multitude of smaller issues there are three main issues highlighted:-

The glass in the fine Stained Glass windows, including the massive East window, is in danger of multiple cracks because the structure of the windows is no longer secure. The glass needs removing and work done before replacing it. This is a very expensive process.

The pointing towards the top of the tower needs urgent attention. We have noticed various flints falling in recent months and have erected a safety barrier to protect the public from possible mishap. This requires scaffolding and expert attention

Part of the Church's problems has been caused by inadequate or defective roof drainage and also problems with the concrete apron that was put around the church in the last century. Both these issues need addressing.

The sum total is well above what could reasonably be expected to be raised from the congregation. Fortunately the Church Commissioners, as Lay Rector, have some responsibilities towards the Chancel area and the Architect is optimistic about the possibility of grants. We are also most fortunate in having received an unexpected and generous bequest this year of £40,000. Nevertheless there is a considerable challenge ahead to make our church structurally sound and a public appeal will be launched in 2012.

A copy of the Architect's Quinquennial report is available in the Parish Office if anyone wants to borrow it.