



The Church of St Thomas of Canterbury

Compton Valence

Salisbury Diocese

Report describing the conservation and cleaning of the painted text above the donations box



St Thomas of Canterbury, Compton Valence

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Distribution list

- Peter Steel, churchwarden, St Thomas of Canterbury
- Daniel Cantrell, inspecting architect, Crickmay Stark.
- Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Council.
- Dr Janet Berry, Head of Conservation, The Church Buildings Council, London.

This report is provided in electronic form only, pdf.

Acknowledgements

I thank the PCC of St Thomas of Canterbury for commissioning this work from me. In particular I thank Peter Steel (churchwarden).

Peter Martindale – 9th September 2021

Introduction

This succinct report describes the conservation measures carried out with regard to the lettering above the donations box set into the south wall of the nave, by the side of the south door. Proposals for the work were presented in a document prepared by Peter Martindale, dated 24th November 2020. The work was commissioned by the Parish and carried out by Peter Martindale on 2nd September 2021.

Treatment

Overleaf photographs show the area treated before and after conservation and cleaning.

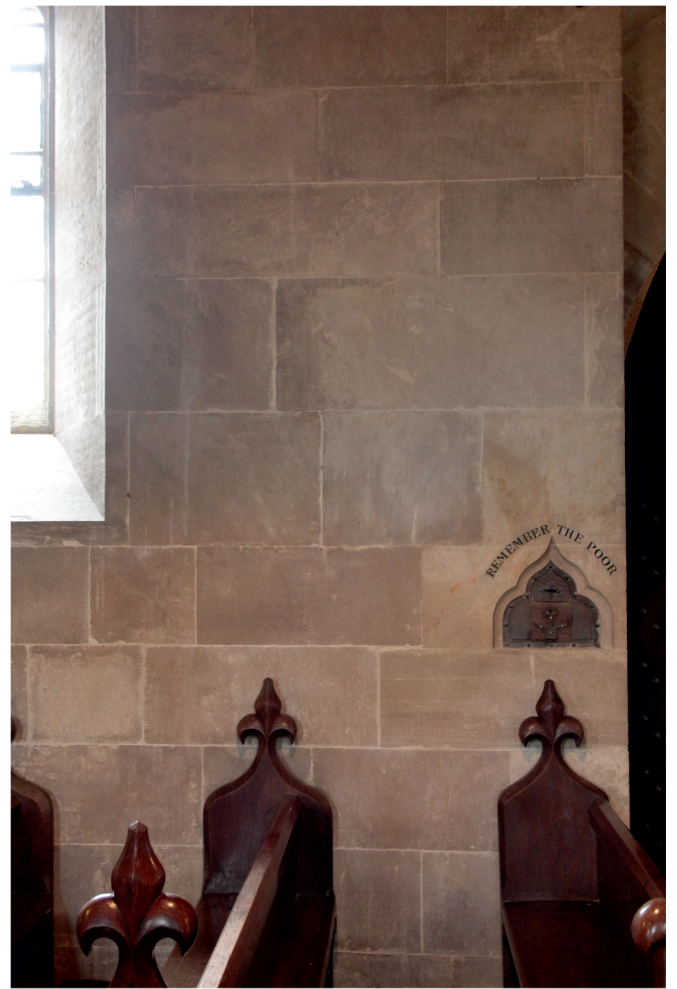
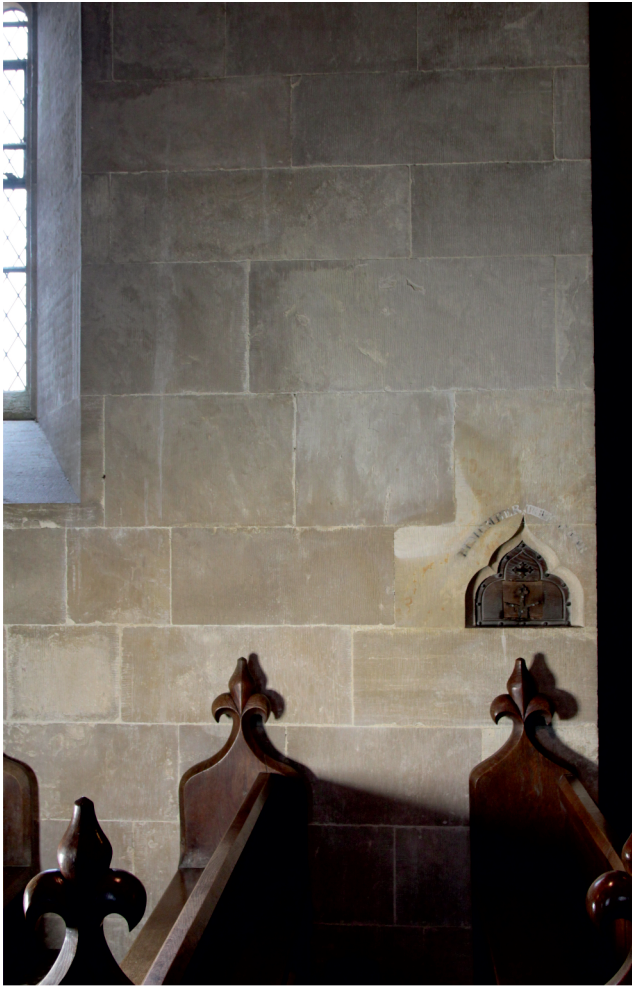
Loosely adhering dirt and dust was removed from the painted text and surrounding ashlar using a soft artists' brush. Further deposits of dirt and dust was removed using a Wishab™ self-abrading sponge. More stubborn surface dirt was removed using a small damp sponge dipped in clean water, avoiding the painted lettering. Dirt around the lettering was removed with a cotton wool bud on a swabstick so as to avoid the lettering.

Trials were carried out to try to improve on the cleaned result using a variety of solvents including white spirit, acetone, xylene, tri ammonium citrate and ammonium carbonate. None were found to be successful.

The lettering crosses a joint between two stones. This joint was repointed with a fine lime mortar (3 parts sand / 1 part lime putty).

In preparation for retouching, existing lettering was consolidated with a 2.5% solution of Paraloid B72 in xylene. Missing parts of the text were then retouched with artists' watercolour paint. If needed, at a later date, it will be possible to remove the retouching without disturbing original paint.

Using watercolour paint, minor blemishes in the surrounding ashlar were toned out. This was done to enhance the overall appearance of the painted text.



1 and 2 above - left before conservation, right after conservation.

3 and 4 below - left before conservation, right after conservation.

