

ARCHITECT'S REPORT – Clock Refurbishment

1.0 Background

The refurbishment of the church clock was recommended in the 2017 Quinquennial Inspection, undertaken by Richard Crooks. Subsequently, several quotations were sought for assessing and undertaking repairs/refurbishment of the clock face by specialist clock restorers. Clockwise Restorations of Boston were successful in being selected for the works.

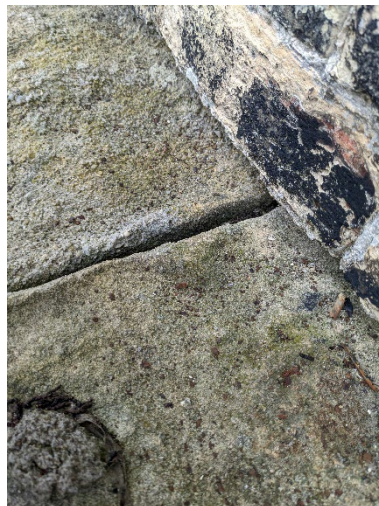
Between the appointment of Clockwise Restorations and the works commencing, unfortunately Richard Crooks, the Inspecting Architect, passed away. Tom Crooks, having been appointed as his successor, was instructed by the church to oversee the project and advise on the procurement of the works, which involved correspondence prior to commencement over the implementation of the works, followed by two visitations.

Due to the specialist nature and scope of the works, they were procured under quotation and acceptance, with no formal construction contract in place. Therefore, there is no mechanism for the Architect to prepare or issue a Certificate of Completion. As such, this brief report aims to function as a replacement for a formal completion document.

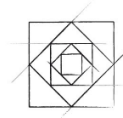
2.0 Visits

I attended the church on two separate occasions in connection with the works. The first on 30th September 2022 when the clock was being dismantled and the second on the 24th January 2023, to inspect the completed works.

On the first visit, the clock faces had been taken to ground to allow for their inspection. Their condition and a full assessment are outlined in the specialist clock restorer's report. The removal of the clock faces afforded the opportunity for me to inspect the masonry behind the faces and in the vicinity, while high-level access was in place. This revealed that the brickwork and pointing behind the clock faces was in remarkably good condition and no remedial repairs were needed. The projecting stone plinth immediately below the clock faces has open perpend joints and the bed joint immediately above the stone is open. The backwards slope of the stone plinth is most likely directing water into the structure as a result and should be repaired/repointed. This will require attention in the future to mitigate this problem.



St. Bartholomew's Church, Arkendale



RICHARD CROOKS
PARTNERSHIP

The clock has had new faces manufactured, to replace the existing, which were found to be simply sheets of steel. The original hands have been re-used and re-gilded.

I was unable to attend on the day of reinstallation, however, I visited shortly afterwards to inspect the clock faces, which have been reinstalled successfully and look wonderful.



The open joints in the masonry, specifically the stone plinth remain and have not yet been fully addressed, however. There is a need to carry out some fairly urgent repointing of the open brickwork joints to the tower, so this should all be addressed in the near future under a separate programme of works.

3.0 Conclusion

The works have been completed to a high standard and the clock faces are now in an excellent state of decoration and will hopefully last for many years. The Church should be mindful of the outstanding masonry repairs which will need to be addressed in the near future.

24th March 2023

Tom Crooks

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