



QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT

Name of Parish: **Leigh-on-Mendip**
Dedication of Church: **St Giles**
Archdeaconry: Wells
Rural Deanery: Frome
Grade: I, S gate piers, overthrow & walling II, Wilcox chest tomb II
Conservation Area: No
Tree Preservation Orders: All of the Yews
Date of Church: C.1350, rebuilt/remodelled c.1500, repaired/restored c.1900
Local Authority: Mendip District Council
Church Architect: M Taylor MA(Bld Cns) RIBA AABC
The Warren, Stoke Road, North Curry
Somerset TA3 6HN
Tel: 01749 673565
Date of Survey: 24 March 2021
Previous Survey: January 2016
Weather: Fair & dry
Reference in Pevsner: Appended



PART 1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The following description is taken from the website www.historicengland.org.uk.

List entry Number: 1058345

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP CP CHURCH WALK (North Side) ST64NE

2/13 Church of St Giles[sic]

11.3.68

GV I

Parish Church. Circa 1350, rebuilt c1500. Doulting rubble and ashlar, slate [error, there is none?] and lead roofs. Clerestoried nave of 3-bays, north and south aisles, south porch, chancel, west tower; Perpendicular. 3-stage tower has paired set-back buttresses connected across the angle terminating in 2 sets of pinnacles, the higher placed diagonally; 2 further pinnacles between each standing above embattled parapets pierced by quatrefoils. Triple bell openings of 2-lights filled by a dense quatrefoil interlace, identical blank lights set directly below. Ogee gable to the west doorway, above 4-light window. Nave and chancel have parapets with pierced quatrefoils, 3-light windows under square and pointed heads respectively. 5-light east window. Scraped interior, elaborate tie beam roof to both nave and chancel, (the latter more elaborate) decorated with figures of angels; north and south aisles have lean to roofs of similar design, unfinished fan vault to tower. Nave has arcade of 3-bays, pointed arches on slender 4-hollow piers, chancel arch and aisle chapel arches of similar type; tower arch has wave moulding. Upper and lower entrances to rood,

scalloped C11 foot [font] with Jacobean cover and medieval glass incorporated in west windows. South aisle contains 2 piscinae and aumbrey; C12 stone figures of St Catherine on sill of south-east window. Chancel has priest's door to south; angelic corbels for lantern veil, Jacobean chair. 3 aediculated wall plaques of C18 in chancel and north and south aisles.

List entry NGR: ST6925747291

PART 2 MAIN REPORT

Limitations

The inspection was carried out in accordance with the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 from ground level, within the tower and access points to the roofs over the nave, aisles & chancel.

Woodwork or other parts of the structure which are covered, unexposed or inaccessible have not been inspected and I am, therefore, unable to report that any such part of the building is free from defects.

I have inspected this building as far as possible without causing damage and my report is submitted on the understanding that its scope is limited by the above factors.

This is a general report only and must not be used as a specification for the execution of repairs.

1) SCHEDULE OF WORKS COMPLETED SINCE THE PREVIOUS QUINQUENNIAL REPORT

The log book notes the following:

- 2016; churchyard monuments safety inspection, bells inspected for safety, etc., rainwater butt repaired,
- 2017; asbestos survey, recovering of chancel roof & east end drainage reconstruction (LPoW Roof scheme), paving repair south of priest door, lighting changed to LED, installation of roof alarm (monitored cctv), north aisle heater repairs, lightning conductor repairs,
- 2018; recovering of nave roof & structural timber repairs (HLF scheme), recovering of porch roof (following lead

- theft), similarly repair of north aisle roof W end, construction of tower room & servery, Construction of toilet & flower room and mains foul drain connection, replacement of faulty pew heater cable,
- 2019; bell traps made in upper stage floors, bells removed for tuning and renewal of fittings, installation of heritage desk, notice board & childrens' centre, tree preservation order to all yews,
- 2020; unfixed mediaeval pew stored in tower (from front of nave) refixed in NW nave displacing one C19 pew (to be sold).

2) GENERAL CONDITION

It is so pleasing to see the building brought back to life, there having been enormous efforts during the quinquennium to address the nave & chancel roofs, the rainwater drainage, the bells and to make the building a community hub with the new café/meeting room in the base of the tower and the new access toilet & flower area in the north aisle. This has only been possible with a magnificent effort to raise funds, and thanks are due to the HLF, the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme and many others, not least the many members of the village who have been tireless in their contribution.

Structurally the building is broadly sound, having had rusting tie rods removed from the nave and the roof structure repaired.

However, there remain a number of significant challenges; the lower roof parapets, the window masonry, the north and west rainwater drainage, the flooring and heating, which all remain poor and now more urgently require attention.

The particular problems are rust jacked and open jointing of the parapets, advanced decay of window masonry, patches of failing pointing, poor rainwater drainage to the north and especially the west sides where the collapsing construction is a safety hazard, advanced timber decay and general decrepitness of the pew flooring and an elderly electrical heating installation requiring regular repair.

Happily the Friends of Leigh Church still have momentum and hopefully these final obstacles will be overcome within the new quinquennium.

EXTERNAL

3) ROOF COVERINGS

All of the roofs are pitched to varying degree and covered with lead sheet. All are contained within a parapet and drained via lead spouts with the exception of the north aisle - fitted with hoppers & downpipes. The nave roof is directly accessible from the tower stair. The porch, aisle and eastern roofs are accessed by ladder, with care climbing over the parapets. The aisle roof coverings were re-laid in 1983 at a cost of £10,000.

A considerable amount of work has been done in the quinquennium to renew the roof coverings of the chancel & vestry, nave and porch (the latter following theft). The south aisle received some repair to address leaks; in the ridge centrally this unfortunately persists after heavy rain.

South aisle; covered with sand cast lead sheet of good thickness with wood core rolls and splash laps, pitch at approximately 10° to

an approximately 400mm wide parapet gutter. This falling to catch pits at quarter points, the pits extending some 900mm as lead chutes. Gutter drips 30mm to 40mm are very shallow. Two or three creep ridges in eastern roof bay which is hairline cracked and another coming – the extant crack about 0.5mm requires leadburing repair. Two or three further bays along the roof with beginnings of creep ridges but no sign of cracking. Roof structurally firm underfoot. Flashings all round in reasonably good order. Some mortar cracking west end of south parapet requiring attention. Gutter leadwork generally appears in good order. The outlets some 175mm wide and similar height, unlikely to block. The reported leak was addressed two or three times during the quinquennium, where it was believed to be the loss of stone from the cill drip. There is no obvious fault. Possibly the hairline fracturing of old mortar at the E end of the window cill, possibly similar cracking in the mortar along the tip of the flashing at this location?

Porch; of sand cast lead sheet with standing seams. Renewed during the quinquennium following theft. The lead was rolled by thieves who were disturbed leaving the lead on the ground, badly damaged. Graffiti including the date crest 1788 was lead-burned onto the roof. The new lead has a separate ridge with wood roll, the slopes approximately 15° pitch. Parapet gutters 300mm wide with central sump with 400mm long chute outlets. Leadwork also renewed, with leadburned outlets as a single sheet appears in sound condition. Flashings repointed during the quinquennium and sound. Old cracking in the parapet masonry has received some minor attention but remains a problem, especially externally – see Walling.

Chancel and adjoining vestry/organ chamber and S/Lady chapel; The lead covering renewed during the quinquennium with the

benefit of a Listed Places of Worship grant. The substructure was checked during the work and found to be in good condition. Some ceiling boarding aged and a little decayed. New softwood boarding was laid on counter battens accommodating woodfibre thermal insulation. Graffiti from the earlier roof was leadburned onto the new covering. Sand cast leadwork at approximately 30° pitch with wood core rolls. Leadwork all in good condition, however I noted there is a blister in the lower-most graffiti panel which may be a result of trapped moisture expanding. Cutting a small outlet at the base of the panel should remedy this, with careful dressing back of the blister. South side parapet gutters of 350mm to 450mm width (the chancel the latter) with single sump outlet toward east end with 200mm or 300mm long chutes. The outlets some 150mm wide and similar height. The north parapet gutter tapering with a single outlet at the east end, a sump and side outlet to a hopper. Immediately east a roughly 700mm square chimney base, newly capped flush with the parapet. Flashings generally new and pointing sound. Parapet copings rebbed during the quinquennium and generally sound. Some small detachment of silicone sealant to west abutment flashings where masonry is a little crumbly. Ideally this will be raked out and pointed with lime mortar. There is some slight cracking of flashing pointing east side of Lady chapel.

North aisle; covered in cast lead sheet with wood core rolls and splashlaps and with a good 350mm to 400mm wide parapet gutter having outlets at third points, sumps which extend as chutes dressed into hoppers. The outlet some 175mm wide and similar height, unlikely to block. Leadwork generally in good condition with no sign of creep ridge or crack. The west three sheets replaced during the quinquennium owing to theft. Flashings all round in good order with some pointing renewal.

Nave roof; recovered during the quinquennium with cast lead sheet at approximately 30° with wood core rolls on new softwood boards and counter battens incorporating woodfibre thermal insulation. The substructure extensively repaired at the time, removing the several iron tie rods, external steel strapping and the C19 "5th truss". Ceiling boarding of the west & central bays was also replaced. Leadwork in good order. Old lead bearing graffiti was leadburned onto the new covering including the old date shields 1748, 1726 and 1628, and as with the chancel there are signs of blistering in one piece on each slope where similar relief holes are recommended. Parapet gutters approximately 400mm wide with outlets at roughly third points with sumps extending as chutes some 600mm. Leadwork also renewed during the quinquennium and in good order. Flashings in good order, some minor mortar cracking on the north side, west half.

Tower roof; a recent recovering of milled lead sheet with wood rolls and splashlaps in small bays falling from east and west to central gutter which discharges entirely to the north via a horizontal chute extending some 800mm or so. The outlet pinched and U-shaped just 80mm wide could relatively easily block. Inner bays with nominal fall, upper bays with good fall. Leadwork generally in good condition and reasonable thickness. There is a panel from an earlier sheet on the north side bearing the numerals 84. Structure firm underfoot. Central flagstaff, white GRP and 7m or 8m high. It is simply secured by a cup bracket of stainless steel to the base and a further clasp bracket 1.3m higher both fastened to a probably oak post penetrating the roof covering and extending 2m or so beneath where it is diagonally braced and secured to a cross beam in the belfry. The installation appears secure, there are no guy ropes. The post is cracked and a large fissure on the west face sealed with silicone. This is slightly loose and may leak. Bonded to the lightning conductor.

4) RAINWATER GOODS AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

The roofs discharge everywhere via lead U-section chutes, mostly extending beyond the parapets and dripping to the ground or a ground gutter. The exception is the north aisle and organ chamber where cast iron hoppers and circular downpipes carry the water to the ground. In some respects the cast iron pipes can be considered redundant as there is no gulley beneath but they do prevent splashback on to the walls. Downpipes are in reasonable condition, the organ chamber new, the aisle poor decorative order. The eastern aisle downpipe discharges to a plastics butt set rather agriculturally on two heavy rolled steel hollow sections 200 x 300mm each. The butt requires a new tap. Generally the free draining spouts are in good order, the nave, chancel and porch renewed during the quinquennium.

5) BELOW GROUND DRAINAGE

Rainwater around the building is collected in a stone built channel of varying width. This falls to the north-east corner of the chancel where there is a grated outlet discharging to a soakaway some 5m north east installed during the quinquennium (plastics "aquacell"). The east and part of the south channel were rebuilt during the quinquennium, with improved fall and pointing of the church walling. This appears to have significantly dried out the east end, where previously the ground became muddy. The north channel discharges to a soakaway installed some years ago. The channel is choked with grass and much of the masonry jointing porous. Parts of the retaining walling on the outside of the channel are falling in and require repair. The channel north of the tower and west of the porch is in very poor condition, largely collapsed requiring rebuilding. This is somewhat hazardous where it forms

the edge to the churchyard turf. Across the south of the porch there appears to be a covered culvert, very likely heavily silted. Across the east end of the south aisle a culvert was made during the quinquennium, taking the opportunity to relay the path to the Priest door.

During the quinquennium catch-pits were made under the southern chancel spouts, designed to drain back into the channel. The turf reinforced. The turf has not properly established and further turf is needed.

6) PARAPETS AND UPSTAND WALLS

Refer Walling for exterior. Viewed from the roof:

South aisle; parapet masonry for the most part of reasonably good condition however for the most part live, i.e. most joints hairline fractured and several sections of coping movable. This is greatest at the west end and across the porch. Each coping linked with a cramp, covered with lead therefore difficult to tell but likely to be iron. One opened up is iron. Little corrosion. Several sections of the pierced work fissured and conservation work needed (similar areas to the greatest disruption). Notable that parapet has outward lean towards east end some 40mm.

Porch; the copings without cramping. Most of the internal jointing was repointed during the quinquennium and appears in satisfactory condition, however externally (see Walling) joints are open/cracked and as a result rebuilding is necessary, stitching cracking in the south elevation corners.

Chancel and adjoining vestry/organ chamber and S/Lady chapel;

rebedded during the quinquennium with some mortar repairs and two new stones on the north side replacing a redundant vestry chimney. All generally good condition.

North aisle; masonry generally in good order, large ashlar blocks. Many of the joints mostly vertically hairline cracked. A 1.5mm vertical crack through coping and joint opposite east jamb western window. Several coping units of the north side slightly live. No visible cramps except the east parapet where there is some corrosion and cracking and all joints cracked. The parapet requires rebuilding, and the iron cramp replacing in non-ferrous.

Nave parapet; received repair during the quinquennium. South side masonry all in good order. There is old cracking in the base at the east end which is stable/superficial. East facing masonry sound having received repair. A vertical crack at the junction of the south & east parapets should be tied/pinned. North parapet masonry generally sound. A number of ashlar stones were repaired with mortar during the quinquennium.

Tower; a substantial parapet some 1.8m high and the pinnacles higher. Masonry generally is reasonably sound, much weathered; up to 5mm has been lost from the tops of the grotesques, which is an indicator for the general surface loss. Most merlons have a concrete or rendered pier behind approximately 500 x 400mm with sloping top fitted with lead weathering through which a bronze stay extends upward to stabilize pinnacles; a C20 strengthening/repair it appears. The merlons adjoining the north-east stair turret without buttresses, instead they have substantial bronze cramps let in. Each corner pinnacle with a simply decorative iron finial and small weathervane of copper; the iron cardinal pointed almost entirely rusted away. Connected to the lightning conductor. Each sub-pinnacle with a plain copper rod

linked to the aerial loop of the lightning conductor. There is a horizontal crack 1mm wide beneath the coping north-west merlon north extent. Masonry firm. Similar crack 2-3mm to south-east corner extending fully across the merlon group internally and externally. Masonry firm. This SE cracking has increased 1mm since the last inspection. Perhaps rusting iron. All appears stable at this time. The detached pinnacles were viewed from the parapet. All appear in satisfactory condition, mostly secured by bronze ties, a C20 addition is appears. Two or three stone ties remain, mostly the north-east corner. These are fractured. There is a small vertical hairline fracture halfway down the south-east detached pinnacle north-west face. No concern at this time. Notable the merlon coping south end of west parapet is missing, removed some years ago.

7) WALLING

This may be clearly divided in two, the tower and the remainder. The tower described by one commentator as the finest in England, of finely jointed ashlar, highly decorative in four stages with diagonal buttresses each with offset buttresses running out in the fourth stage culminating in a diagonal pinnacle with detached crocket work higher than the parapet and further diagonal pinnacles rising from the second stage watershed. An elaborate parapet with pinnacles at third points and blind quatrefoil frieze in two stages beneath the embrasures. Three two-storey two-light belfry openings each face with three-quarter diagonal pinnacles between and the same but blind in the third stage, a tall four-light west window breaching the second stage and two-centre arched west door with ogee pinnacle breaching the window cill. In the south side second stage a pair of empty statue niches with angel corbels sit below a two-centre arched window. Notable there is a

blind parapet on the west face of the south east buttress indicating a roof slope of approximately 15 degrees 1m below the present parapet. Was this an aspiration after the south aisle, or replaced by the south aisle?

During the quinquennium core drilling for services was made through the north wall of the tower at ground level revealing a largely solid construction of cut stone and mortar – no rubble. The first attempt to drill through led to a bit that fitted on the end of the drive rod dropping off – indicating that somewhere around 1.5 meters through there was a loose / rubble infill. The full thickness was found to be 3240mm.

Elsewhere, the work largely random rubble, local sandstone with Douling dressings but some wide jointed ashlar, notably the chancel, south transept, much of the porch and south-west corner of the aisle. Diagonal buttresses everywhere and square in line with the nave east end, almost plain work compared with the tower apart from the quatrefoil pierced work of the nave and south aisle parapets. Pointing generally a mid grey lime with black particulates having weathered pale grey and quite hard. Generally extensive remains of render cover rubble work and evidently infilling ashlar. Plain ashlar parapets elsewhere without embellishment save for the porch which has an ogee pinnacle with foliate crown.

Nave south clerestory wall; parapet masonry generally of stone in sound condition. Upright although bowed as the wall approximately 150mm to the south. Cracking above the window apexes associated with tie bolts (now removed) pointed during the quinquennium with no sign of movement. Walling stone and pointing in sound condition. Pointing of strap form, I think lime based, quite hard.

Nave east wall; masonry and pointing in sound condition. Strap pointing, here rather more weathered and some minor failure. A vertical crack some 1.5m from the south quoin repointed during the quinquennium with no further sign of cracking. Parapet masonry generally in sound condition. On the north side a laminating ashlar stone has been repaired, with parts of the string course moulding. There is a vertical crack in the NE corner of the parapet which should be pinned.

Nave north clerestory wall; parapet masonry of generally good condition. Cracking above the window apexes associated with tie bolts (now removed) pointed during the quinquennium with no sign of movement. Walling reasonably sound. A mortar repair to the parapet centrally has unfortunately failed.

Porch; little evidence of limewash on the east face, more on the adjoining south wall of aisle with evidence of a lime render. Masonry and pointing generally in reasonably sound condition. Strap-work pointing lime based and mostly attached with little weathering. Small areas are coming away and there are one or two minor cracks where rainwater will enter. The east face parapet has a vertical crack 1-2mm wide centrally and some mortar loss in the battered (leaning) masonry beneath the rainwater chute. The south elevation of crude ashlar generally in good condition. Pointing either side of the outer opening is a strap work, dark grey painted. There is a 4-5mm vertical crack through the parapet 500mm from the west end. This continues down below parapet running out as hairline some 700mm. There is further ½mm cracking in the two courses of masonry beneath that sit over the opening hood mould. A nail end in a joint suggests the possibility of rust jacking. I wonder that the parapet crack is rust jacking. This will become worse with some speed as the joint is through the parapet coping. I recommend that the parapet is rebuilt,

reusing the stone and replacing iron cramps and dowles with stainless steel or bronze. On the west side most parapet jointing cracked and 50% of mortar lost. The lower half of west wall largely without mortar exposing voided bed jointing, with some plant growth. As the roof discharge will splash on this wall and west facing driving rain enter, this wall core will be very damp and there is some urgency over remedial work. Remarkably the interior wall face reasonably dry, damp only at seat level.

South aisle; short west facing wall of ashlar generally in good condition. There is deep voiding at ground level where loose masonry requires repacking. Mortar loss at parapet level. A similar problem of voiding at ground level continues along the south wall west of the porch. Rubble masonry beneath the windows and traces of render. Some mortar loss where packing is needed. Otherwise the walling mostly ashlar and reasonably good. Parapet masonry from ground level appears in reasonably sound condition. East of the porch a date 1620. On closer inspection the pierced work fissured. Most perpend joints cracked and several missing mortar. Rubble masonry full height east of porch in reasonably sound condition. Patches where some repointing is desirable, notably under the window and an open joint in the window head.

South/Lady chapel; crude ashlar generally in sound condition. The battered (leaning) masonry at ground level repointed/-consolidated during the quinquennium.

Chancel; again crude ashlar material in generally good condition. The base of the plinth repointed/-consolidated during the quinquennium.

Vestry; rubble walling with modern recessed repointing in

generally good condition. The pointing probably contains some cement and is very hard.

North aisle and organ chamber; rubble masonry for the most part with strap pointing. The pointing much weathered but in reasonable order. Masonry generally sound. One or two holes beneath the parapet centrally. Parapet generally in sound order. Cracking noted from roof level evident externally. I wonder that ironwork causes the cracking? Beneath the plinth several areas where masonry voided and notably by the north door which is solidly blocked. Short west wall of ashlar in generally good condition. Some mortar loss at ground level. Masonry under the north-west buttress loose and requires proper setting.

Tower east face; fair amount of sometimes quite thick lichen attaching. Masonry and jointing generally appears to be satisfactory. The lower central sound opening pierced work with significant decay. Most of the surface lost and the background sugared. There has been some minor stone loss from erosion of the parapet carving. Notable there is white limewash in the apex of the belfry openings, particularly the centre.

Tower north; somewhat more erosion to carved work of the parapet. More decay to the upper tracery of the third stage blind windows. There is a crevice and stone loss beside the central east facing crocket of the lower detached pinnacle finial. It is difficult to view but it appears the upper part firmly attached. There appears to be an old vertical crack at the base of the stone tie to east detached pinnacle parapet level. The top of the finial attached with bronze. Some surface stone loss to several pierced panels of the belfry, also the tracery and the lower east mullion. There is significant lamination and stone loss upper masonry unit lower east detached pinnacle. This is immediately beneath the

carved finial. At the same level some stone loss to north face of west side finial (west elevation).

Tower west; in general the masonry in satisfactory condition. Some small signs of decay in the blind tracery. Rusting pins holding repairs to the plinth flanking the west door require removal and stone repairs.

Tower south; generally masonry in sound condition. A number of hairline vertical cracks/lamination in the stone immediately beneath carved finial of the east face south east detached pinnacle. Fractured stone in east jamb of ringing chamber window, where repairs are needed.

8) WOODWORK, EXTERNAL DOORS

South door, of wide oak bead jointed vertical boards in generally good condition, of some age. Plain tapering iron strap hinges superficially rusted.

Priest door; renewed skillfully in oak during the previous quinquennium, and in good condition. Rust appearing in ironwork. The ironwork would benefit from repainting and the wood oiling or a coat of beeswax & turpentine.

The west door with more extensive stone decay, prominent mouldings in the arch affected by carbon deposits and badly laminated. Stone cleaning and repair highly desirable. The pair of oak doors sealed shut in reasonably sound condition. Small amount of timber decay to bottom rails and the feet of the stiles. Notable there are a few death-watch beetle flight holes through the polysulphide sealant, top south corner. Ironwork & woodwork

will benefit from coating as the Priest door.

Refer Windows for ringing chamber.

9) WINDOWS

Fragments of mediaeval painted glass in the west and upper part chancel south windows, otherwise throughout plain diamond leaded, the glass incorporating some very pale green, yellow and purple quarries randomly mixed. More brightly coloured glass in the tracery of the southern windows east of the porch. Only the clerestory have ferramenta, an internal stanchion each light.

Coloured glass of the east Lady chapel tracery old, also old roundels in the east window tracery; Mediaeval grisaille work. Upper part chancel south 19th century grisaille work. The west window Mediaeval glass remnants reassembled in a geometric form and filling the upper three-quarters.

Viewed internally; glazing generally appears to be in satisfactory condition. Saddle bars are black painted bronze in the main, mortar around the glass generally in sound order. There are a few cracks in masonry, refer Internal Walling. The vestry retains earlier round iron saddle bars and these are extensively rusted. The east mullion fractured and stone will fall. Glazing, which is obscure (frosted) significantly distorted. The glazing should be re-leaded and certain saddle bars renewed. An iron opening vent requires refurbishment. Nave clerestory glazing in sound condition, having been repaired during the quinquennium when the ferramenta (a single vertical bar) re-set & painted. No sign of cracking in the repaired fracturing above window apexes.

Windows externally; south aisle west and south facing, masonry generally with advanced decay. Mortar around the glass mostly intact but cracked, mainly shrinkage cracking. Some loss. Notable there are shutter pintles. Three or four cracked joints, the east and west jambs. Conservation repairs are highly desirable. The eastern window better condition. South chapel, the tracery masonry renewed during the quinquennium. Some stone decay and repairs desirable to the mullions. The east facing window much better, some repair desirable to the south jamb.

Chancel, some decay and mortar cracking in the south facing window. More in the east where repairs are highly desirable, and cleaning of the sulphate deposition.

Vestry has a little stone decay to mullions otherwise satisfactory.

Organ chamber with some decay to mullions where repairs are desirable, and cleaning of sulphate deposition. North aisle, some stone decay and sulphate deposition, notably the hood moulding and tracery. Very significant to east mullion of west window where repairs are required, including extensive rust jacking from former shutter pintles.

Tower west window with some significant stone decay in the tracery, also sulphate deposition. Repairs needed, and repainting of ferramenta (single horizontal bar at springer level).

Nave north & south clerestory; glazing in sound condition having received repairs during the quinquennium. No signs of movement from repaired cracking above apex.

Ringing chamber, tower south; loose fragment of stone to east jamb requires repair, and external iron bars repainting. It ought to

be possible to do so from opening the window. Oak window frame in poor condition. Extensive decay in the bottom. Repair needed, which will be possible from the interior.

INTERNAL

10) TOWERS, SPIRES

Staircase; located in the north east corner, internally accessed over stone steps via an old hardwood door. The door in reasonably good condition, draught stripped very neatly in the quinquennium. A stone newel type stair. Every tread to the ringing chamber covered with hardwood presumably making good excessive wear of the stone. No significant sign of cracking in the walls. There are vertical hairline and ½mm cracks evidently where the wall thicknesses vary and above door openings.

Ringing chamber; a lath and plaster ceiling it appears, of some age and with various patches. The most recent painting is coming away and large flakes have fallen. The slender downstand beams which span north/south at each edge and centrally are limewashed and appear in satisfactory condition. There are small black specks here and there, mainly near bearing ends. These are few in number. They may indicate Woodworm (Deathwatch Beetle). This is not extensive and they may be other marks. During the quinquennium a hatch formed in the north east corner. Walls appear to be distempered in a cream colour, rubbed off by ringing activity at low level revealing a mid green over the roughly tooled stone ashlar. Generally in good condition with no sign of water ingress or significant cracking. There is a fine hairline vertical crack in the south-west angle, also the north-east where the door is located, beginning over the door. Some old water run

marks noted on walls (which is beneath the clock chamber). Floor entirely covered in carpet and firm underfoot. A central bell trap was re-opened during the quinquennial, and a new opening cut through the ceiling beneath.

There is an Ellacombe chime apparatus on the north wall, and between it and the door a row of hand bells, 15 in number. The chime is currently disabled with removal of the hammers for safety during refitting of the bells. It will hopefully be restored very soon.

11) CLOCK CHAMBER

The ceiling is the underside of the belfry floor. This appears to be a single thickness of oak (about 38mm) and the joints filled with expanding foam some years ago as sound proofing. Boards laid across stop chamfered oak beams spanning north/south at roughly third points (more widely displaced at the eastern third) and carried on similar beams on stone corbels against the north and south walls and a composite centre beam of bolted softwood joists, 3no. approximately 250 x 100mm each. The softwood preservative treated. This centre beam strapped down to superficially rusted embedded iron anchors each end. Old square headed nuts fasten vertical tie rods through the three primary beams presumably engaging with the bell frame. All woodwork appears in sound condition, relatively recent. Walling fairfaced with no sign of damp or significant cracking. There is a 1mm vertical crack in the south-west corner, largely explained by a poor bond. A crack in the north-east corner has been repointed historically and shows little sign of further cracking. The floor softwood boarding reasonably firm underfoot. A new bell trap cut in the north east corner during the quinquennium. There is a

further clock weight trap in the south east corner covered by a white enamel tray, oddly. The clock stands on a softwood trestle in front of the east wall, an 18th century wrought iron 2-drum refurbished in 2003 with electric winding then fitted. The clock is enclosed in a softwood cupboard. It appears in very good order.

Bell ropes are guided through the chamber in softwood crucks. The rope in the north west corner appears to be fraying at mid height?

BELFRY

The hardwood covering of steps continues to belfry level where it ceases. Toward the top some woodwork becoming loose and refixing recommended for safety also re-knot/improve the newel rope fixing at the top which is coming undone.

The ceiling is the underside of the roof. Modern square edge softwood boards gapped 6mm or so and apparently carrying lead without an underlay. Boards on I think oak furrings off earlier oak rafters at close centres.

The rafters of steeper pitch, some 10° from heavy oak wall plates to a heavy oak centre beam dated 1845. All of the woodwork appears in good condition. The central flagstaff post extends approximately 2m beneath roof level and has inverted diagonal bracing both to the ends of the centre beam and perpendicularly to a lifting beam some metre beneath roof level supported on stone corbels. There are further lifting beams on stone corbels against the north and south walls. These beams of similar age to the roof in reasonably sound condition. There are several Deathwatch Beetle flight holes at the bearing edge of centre beam

south end. No sign of significant decay or crushing. Walls are fairfaced limestone ashlar (massive blocks) in generally good condition with no sign of significant cracking. An old 4mm vertical crack in the south west corner one side of a corbel, not manifest in masonry beneath. An old 1-2mm vertical crack in the north east corner, east side of staircase. Sound openings are fitted with mesh, 10mm gauge. The floor of the sound openings all slope outward providing drainage for any driving rain. There is little sign of water ingress. The floor is the earlier oak boards. Joints generally filled with expanding foam. Boarding appears in reasonable condition and reasonably clean.

Bells and frame; substantially filling the chamber with floor set at sound opening cill level. The frame bears on cill members spanning east/west, a heavy oak YY form without end posts. Frame head joints generally cleated with heavy cast iron and hexagonal nuts to square headed bolts. There are several vertical tie bars with square headed nuts. Ironwork generally corroded though this is superficial. The frame generally appears in good condition structurally. None of the bells have canons, clearly removed from the majority.

There are six bells all refitted and tuned during the quinquennium, hung from blue painted welded steel headstocks with through bolts and independent staples. New roller bearings. New hardwood wheels, stays, sliders and pulley blocks. The tenor located centrally on the east side where there are one new and one old chiming hammers. The Ellacombe chime installation dismantled.

12) ROOF AND CEILING VOIDS

Roofs are open to the spaces below.

13) ROOF STRUCTURES, CEILINGS

Chancel; two bays with three kingpost trusses, the tie beams cambered with short braces to wall posts carried by 17th century looking stone angels. The angels don't quite fit the moulded stone ground behind each post, returned under the wall plates. Each ceiling panel divided in four rectangles by moulded ribs and each rectangle in six by sub-ribs equally moulded. Every intersection with foliate carving. Plain overboarding of oak or elm, wide boards covering most sub-panels in one piece, and spanning vertically. Bosses at primary rib intersections and angel wood carvings at the base. Wall plate and tie beam deeply and richly carved, cavetto with billet mould above and vine leaf carving beneath, rosettes between. Moulded kingposts and infilled spandrels with very good bold deep relief foliate carving. All of the timber oak without colouring or finish. No significant signs of water ingress. The roof has evidently been overhauled at some time with various skillfully executed repairs. All appears reasonably satisfactory. Refer Roofs for recovering.

Lady chapel; appears to be a relatively recent replacement oak structure (19th century) all in reasonably good condition with no sign of significant water ingress. Refer Roofs for recovering.

Nave; in three bays. Again, kingpost trusses ending and dividing the bays with short braces and wall posts terminating over angel stone carvings, much bolder and finer carving than the chancel but again, not quite matching the cavetto stone ground to the wall posts and plate. Each bay slope divided in four rectangles by moulded ribbing. In the east bay, subdivided in six by further moulded ribbing with foliate carving at each intersection 'overboarded' horizontally, the remaining bays of plain oak rafters overboarded horizontally with stained softwood, all newly laid in

the quinquennium when many of the rafters were repaired. Wall plate and tie beams of double cavetto with rosette, billet moulding above in east bay north side only; likely the surviving bits. Substantial but plainly moulded kingposts with arch bracing to ridge beam also moulded, the braces on semi pilaster and having elaborate foliate boss beneath tie beam with further angel carving. Angel carving again seems 17th century. Spandrels are infilled with an arcade of four trefoil lights.

The roof has been heavily overhauled historically, the spandrel infill appears a supplement. Most of the arch braces appear a repair reusing earlier floral carving. Different style, the east and second from east possibly 20th century/circa 1900, the second from west earlier but also a repair (the north corbel here dated 1909, and a pencil inscription on woodwork at the east end "Charles Wheeler, I repaired this roof 1909"). The west as the east. Much of the wall plate appears a replacement. Ridge beam and east spandrel and principal raftering appear to cover earlier work as do the upper ceiling panels. Bolted angle iron secures principal rafter apexes to intermediate trusses and a number of purlins are simply strapped. During the quinquennium the roof structured overhauled with stainless steel fitch plates introduced to many principal joints including the tie beam bearings where the wall plates were renewed. These repairs allowed the removal of round iron tie bars at each window apex and square bars against the east side of the intermediate trusses, including the "5th truss" that subdivided the west bay, returning the displaced angel carvings to their original positions. No sign of water ingress and all appears to be sound. Attempts to limewash the east bay have been short lived unfortunately, and the unsightly patchiness of light and dark boards prevails.

South aisle; in arrangement similar to the north aisle but of lean-

to form and apart from the apparent reuse of some common rafters, an entirely replacement oak structure. Wide oak overboarding gapped revealing it seems plywood overboards, tight jointed and immediately above the original oak boards. No sign of water ingress and all appears to be reasonably sound. Most of the woodwork 19th century repair. Refer Roofs for report of leak.

North aisle; in three bays low pitched with moulded cambered beams with arch braces and wall posts to small angel stone carvings, each bay divided in four rectangles by equally moulded ribs with clasping foliate bosses at the intersections, equally moulded wall plates. The panels infilled with common rafters on the south side supporting only widely gapped ceiling boards, on the north supporting the narrow roof boarding and continuing to the south roof edge. All in oak and while retaining a significant amount of early timber, heavily overhauled with new wall plates. The lead laid on building paper it appears; visible between the boards, oak square edge 4mm to 5mm gapped. Exactly how the structure works is not clear. One would expect the beams to span north/south. That above the north door apparently doesn't and has been given a secondary moulded beam beneath, or more likely has failed. Notable pulling away northward of the first from east beam south end. Much of the structural woodwork Mediaeval and extensively repaired. No sign of water ingress. There are watermarks presumably of some age.

South porch; a simple oak construction of stop chamfered moulded ridge beam carrying plain rafters bearing on plain wall plates over early moulded stone cornice. The oak appears post Mediaeval. Narrow overboarding widely gapped and no underlay. Numerous Deathwatch Beetle flight holes in base of wall plates and some old watermarking. During the quinquennium boards to

the north and south ends replaced when the roof recovered. Construction appears reasonably sound. Further Beetle holes at south bearing ridge beam. A suspended board appears to catch bird droppings above the entrance; a huge improvement on the chicken mesh removed during the quinquennium.

Vestry; sloping V-jointed softwood boarding finished in a mid-brown lacquer. Boards are gapped and it appears the common rafters are supported by a boxed purlin at mid span. Ceiling generally in sound condition.

Organ chamber; ceiling largely concealed above black polythene catchment protecting the organ from rainwater presumably, and presumably now redundant.

14) UPPER FLOORS, BALCONIES, ACCESS STAIRWAYS

Refer 10) Tower

15) PARTITIONS, SCREENS, PANELLING, DOORS & DOOR FURNITURE

During the quinquennium a new Oak screen with glass doors and ceiling introduced in the tower arch to form a meeting room/servery & heritage centre, and similar Oak panelling creating a toilet & flower area in the west end of the north aisle – adapting the existing cupboard. All in excellent condition.

There is a modern oak cupboard to the west end of the south aisle installed in 2005, containing the electrical gear and other storage. Nicely made with two-panel doors with upper lights with two centre arch form. Generally good condition. The finish affected

by bat spraint.

16) GROUND FLOOR STRUCTURE, TIMBER PLATFORMS

Unusually sloping downward from west to east, a low step approximately 80mm under the tower arch, 125mm up to the south porch, 180mm down to the chancel and up again to the sanctuary, vestry and priest door.

Sanctuary; tiled with some highly decorative encaustic work depicting hunting (a stag speared by an arrow) and St Giles (the initial G below a crown or mitre). Probably 19th century and firm underfoot, but for a slight hollowness in the north west quadrant. Some minor stone decay of the grey stone dais edging. The sanctuary step encased within mahogany which appears to provide a secure fixing for the oak communion rail, both quite modern and good condition.

Chancel; further tiling generally firm. The Choir stall platform appears to sit on tiling, the platform having a 50mm high by 75mm wide oak kerb with softwood boarding between in generally sound condition. Some beetle activity in kerbing of south stall, fairly minor.

Nave and aisles; a grey sandstone chancel step reasonable but with extensive edge decay where tiling adjoins creating a potential trip hazard. Repairs are needed. Walkways are a lovely red and black handmade quarry tile approximately 200mm square and generally good order. A number removed from the west end of the north aisle during the quinquennium, being 25mm thick approximately are stored in the old boiler room. Pews are fixed to oak rails set flush with tiling and between a softwood basketweave

block floor. There are numerous Deathwatch Beetle flight holes in kerbing and several instances of decay, settlement and some replacement of the kerbing, with corresponding decay of the woodblock. The north aisle particularly poor and along the north wall rotten. In the nave woodblock also uneven with several loose areas particularly toward the west end. A tired floor. A couple of Ham stone slabs, quite small set in the woodblock north side east end. South aisle as north with no kerb repair.

Lady Chapel; woodblock throughout in very poor condition. Several areas loose. Decay along the south and east edges. Again an old floor past its useful life.

Organ chamber; further tiling to the walkways as the aisle. The organ stands on a flush softwood suspended platform with oak kerbing. The floor is reasonably firm however there is obviously timber decay beneath the north-west corner which must undermine the organ support. Renewal of the floor and supporting structure must become necessary in the not too distant future.

In the north aisle and chancel tiled floors, there are a number of square cast iron grilles. Generally in satisfactory condition although corrosion has disrupted tiling. This is particularly bad in the north aisle where one grille is also fractured. Repair and reconstruction desirable. There is a concern the fractured grille may give way and a supplementary support is required.

Vestry; further tiling as the aisle walkway in reasonably good condition though in need of a clean to tidy the appearance.

The porch has a similar floor of tiling in generally good condition.

The tower a stone floor with large Lias ledger slabs. The three stone steps up to the west door removed during the quinquennium when the Children's centre (Oak shelving) was fitted into the door recess. Two narrow stone steps up to the vice tower. The ledger slabs (having surface lamination and much of the inscription damaged) are protected by a whipped carpet loosely laid on underlay incorporating electric heating, in such a manner that they may be lifted for inspection of the inscriptions. Carpet in excellent condition.

17) INTERNAL FINISHES

Throughout the walls are without plaster, for the most part rubble stone with raised pointing, probably 19th century. There are traces of limewash on the dressings of openings and fragments of lime (probably plaster) on stones generally indicating a former plastered interior which would be normal. During the quinquennium in forming the toilet a pew was removed from the rear of the north aisle revealing historic wall plaster. The tower interior entirely of buff limestone ashlar which has been limewashed, a dark ochre/muddy brown colour. Little of this remains almost as though efforts were made (poorly) to scrape off the limewash.

Chancel; walling generally in sound order. There has been a little damp (green algae) at floor level around the sanctuary. Cracking noted in the previous inspection appears unchanged. This is confined to the south wall and nave arch. The walls are broadly upright. Through the eastern south facing window a pair of ½mm cracks (one each arch) and a single vertical crack approximately 1.5mm rising to 3mm through the stone corbel course immediately above the window apex. A ½mm crack through the

west/Lady Chapel arch apex, also evident in the stone corbel course above. Further ½mm crack in west arch voussoir joint. Approximately 2mm crack in apex of nave arch and immediately above the arch approximately 500mm to left and right further vertical cracks in rubble stone approximately 1.5mm wide. These disappear behind truss woodwork after 200mm.

South/Lady chapel; walls are broadly upright apart from the south which leans southward progressively as it travels westward. Cracking described in the chancel wall chancel side also occurs here. The arch voussoir cracked running westward and upward approximately ½mm and running about 750mm in each direction. Thus to the west it passes through the base of the aisle arch. There is a vertical crack under the south edge east window cill about 1mm. This passes through the window cill and reappears at the south bearing end of the lintel. Historically the south jamb has moved approximately 40mm to the south. At window head level the crack approximately 2mm currently. A further ½mm vertical crack through the south window cill and similar cracks to east and west edges of tracery also passing through joints of the lintel.

South aisle; the nave arcade leans southward perhaps 75mm where the first from east freestanding column occurs. The south-east nave column cluster leans likewise from floor to springer level. This movement is transferred to the aisle south wall which leans outward perhaps 150mm at the eastern end and much less so the west end. Apart from a 2mm vertical crack above the west light of the east window which rises reduced to wall top, there is no significant cracking. A hairline crack in the east apex of arcade and a stone fracture in the first from west arcade column immediately above the capital. This appears to have opened slightly during the quinquennium, it is now 1.5mm. There may

have been some outward movement of the nave south wall as a result of the removal of the tie rods, and the new structure taking up the strain. I recommend monitoring. Walling generally in sound condition. Little sign of damp. Some small spots at floor level along the south wall.

Vestry; the walls are plastered and painted, I think most recently with a white emulsion. This appears to be breathable to a degree. It covers earlier layers of limewash it seems, a similar colour to the tower. Particularly at low level all around the room and at high level along the north wall, there is extensive damage affecting both paint and plaster. This appears to be damp penetration. Presently the damp is much reduced – to the point there is no sense of it. This will be the result of ventilation (doors and windows are permanently open, a decision taken correctly by the parish during the previous quinquennium), and possibly the renewal of the roof covering. There have been some repairs at the base of the north wall west end during the previous quinquennium. It appears now time to address the decorative refurbishment and some plaster repairs.

Organ chamber; like the south/Lady chapel, the walls show a northward movement. The north wall approximately 150mm from plumb. There is a vertical crack in the north-east angle, hairline at the vestry door and 3mm or 4mm above rising fully to the wall top. A hairline crack in the top of the north aisle arch becoming approximately 2mm in a corbel course above. Walling generally otherwise in sound condition with little sign of damp. There is some old green algae on the north wall at low level and at ground level a minor area of damp near the vestry door.

North aisle; the arcade wall leans northward a little, perhaps 50mm and mainly manifest in the columns (thus the above rebuilt

plumb - 1620?). There is a ½mm crack in the base of the east arch north side continuing in the north-east angle to the blocked rood screen opening. Otherwise no significant cracking. Hairline in centre of eastern north facing window soffit and ½mm the western. Walling otherwise in generally sound order. Much disfigured by water run marking from earlier roof leaks and green algae at low level along the north wall. There are several old wet spots at ground level mainly the east half which appear less wet than previously.

Nave; east wall broadly upright. A 2mm crack in apex of chancel arch. This hairline at the top of the arch voussoirs. A further vertical crack rises opposite that seen in the chancel either side of the apex about 1mm. These cracks appear to combine and run vertically above the arch apex as 1mm for 800mm. Otherwise walling appears in sound condition. The west wall the tower arch. There is a roughly 2mm vertical crack near the apex, south side which has not changed from the previous inspection, otherwise all appears satisfactory.

North and south walls are roughly plumb but bowed outward the south in particular. The north approximately 100mm occurring in the east bay. The south 200mm also occurring mainly in the east bay. Walling generally sound with no sign of movement in old repaired cracking at the route of the several iron tie bars now removed. The diagonal crack above the west opening of the south arcade, some 5mm wide where it begins in the clerestory window cill running down toward the east and to the first arcade column where it tapers out does not appear to have changed significantly since 2011.

Tower; all generally in reasonably sound order. No significant sign of cracking.

18) FITTINGS, FIXTURES, FURNITURE & MOVABLE ARTICLES

Sanctuary;

- Altar; 20th century, a bold piece of polished limestone (red-green conglomerate and possibly local) forming a table over buff limestone ashlar end and central panels quite plain but for a chamfered forward projecting corbel, the whole built in to an ashlar rear wall extending some 150mm either side and above, the above chamfered forward as a shelf under the east window. All in good condition, however the rear wall cracked some 4mm away from the east wall along the top tapering to nothing down either side. I wonder if rusting iron cramps are to blame. The cracking as it was previously.
- Two oak Glastonbury chairs, not matching. The plainer with foliate inscribed design to back perhaps 19th century, the other more recent with more typical carving to back and arms. Both in sound condition.
- Communion rail modern of oak, two balustrade sections with four turned balusters each, small newels effectively, plain chamfered rectangular section handrail screwed to the mahogany step casing, sound.
- An oak cross stave, modern and sound.
- St Giles banner pale blue, cream and off-white, old but reasonable condition.

Chancel;

- Just the choir stalls, circa 1900 oak with carved ends after those in the nave. In fact, the entire design mimicking the nave and extremely uncomfortable for an adult in the forward pews, not much better in the rear. Plain V-jointed vertical board frontals with stop chamfered mullion. All in good condition, some minor discolouration.

Pulpit;

- Located at the south-east corner of the nave, an octagonal oak tub over plain ashlar plinth of equal form. Three buff limestone steps from the south transept. The oak circa 1900, perhaps earlier. Broad boards each facet each with finely carved tracery in two rectangular lights made rich with ogee crocket work. Pair of fine adjustable brass candlesticks with scroll arms, adapted adjustable brass book-plate. All generally in good condition. The candlesticks worn and becoming loose. The ashlar extensively cracked all around. This appears more likely corroding iron cramps. All ashlar pieces firm.

Font;

- Located at the west end of the south aisle, an early buff limestone tub of Norman Capital form – square, each face undercut with foliate design centrally and at each corner over giving a twin lobe effect, a circular shaft with bead mould around top. Set on much more recent plain square limestone plinth of two slabs. 17th or 18th century style cover, square board with moulded frame, turned central post with flattened ball finial and eight scroll stays. The lid in generally good condition. Font lined with aged lead and brass drain plug – not seen on this occasion. Several repairs to rim where former fasteners removed or broken. These in variable condition. Otherwise, the font is generally good condition. Elliptical repair on north face?

Nave;

- Presenters chair of oak 19th century, possibly earlier, vernacular, foliate carving in low relief to back, the top a two-centre arch, otherwise a fairly plain chair with turned forward legs extended to support swept arms.

Reasonably good condition.

- Modern softwood kneeler with brown varnish finish, satisfactory.
- Circa 1900 presenter's lectern of oak, trefoil opening to front with three-quarter shafts inside each side. Neat brass candle holders screwed to each corner (the uprights), good condition.
- Reader's lectern oak early 20th century, cross base with flying buttress style bracing, square shaft with stop chamfers and button moulding at mid height. Single brass candle holder matching the presenter's lectern, loose. Good condition.
- Pews, Mediaeval for the most part. Two or three appear complete having ends, backs and seat, the ends with two-centre tracery work either two or three lights. Backboards extend to the floor and original shelves remain it seems. There are marks in places where kneelers have been fixed. The rear three pews entirely new – that is 19th century with plain ends but of matching moulding. Frontals and rear pews to forward blocks appear in original position – but must have been refixed to the present C19/20 floor – but see north aisle. Some ends may be earlier than others. Generally speaking, the pews are in good condition. There are numerous knurled edges from early beetle activity, etc. and some minor repairs are needed where boards have detached. Decay of kerbing has weakened fixings in places.
- In the north/south walkway, a modern mahogany side table with drawers in good condition.
- New oak bookshelves with panelled and moulded ends bearing memorial dated 1992. A little crudely made but nice.

North aisle;

- Pews as the nave, circa 1900 frontal. The two similarly dated rear pews removed during the quinquennium to accommodate the toilet & flower area. It at first appears the wall ends of the Mediaeval pews have been shortened, and fitted with a simple chamfered upright as a stop-end to the backboarding with raking bench support. The later work has full ends to the wall. Notable that wall plaster remains concealed between the pews and masonry – suggesting the present woodblock floor has been laid inside the kerbing without disturbing the pews.
- Modern oak table, good condition.

South aisle;

- Tall oak candle stand 20th century and in good condition.
- Immediately east of the door, modern oak cupboard with shelving unit above pierced to access the wall safe and bearing a memorial 1996. A nice piece, a little crudely made.
- Pews a mirror of the north aisle including remains of plaster.

South/Lady chapel;

- The central long pew matching the choir stalls and in good condition. The rear pew apparently built for the position, taller than the middle pew, of light construction without the backboarding, perhaps left out to ventilate the wall. Marked under the aisle arch where bat spraint may be a problem. Otherwise, in good condition.
- Stored communion rail, 1.5 metre length in oak fairly plain but with delightful tiny tracery carving in small rectangles each end upright. Perhaps borrowed.

Displaced from the Tower;

- Frontal case of oak, modern bearing a memorial dated 1977, robustly made and in broadly good condition.
- Pair possibly 17th century oak coffin stools in broadly sound condition. Both have a split seat somewhat crudely reattached and one with corner lost. This latter with crude angle bracketry.
- A small oak chest probably 17th century possibly earlier. Nicely made with skilful decorative moulding to the two-panel front in reasonably good condition for its age and given the loss of front legs. Some significant repair needed.
- A number of 20th century chairs, satisfactory.
- A large chest of oak 18th century and rather fine and generally good condition. Interestingly is has a contemporary "strong box" of oak at the left end and the left two thirds a later softwood lid presenting slots for the registration slips for weddings, etc. Again will require some significant repair.
- Pair circa 1900 pine school benches, sound.
- Behind a pair of modern screens a number of modern welded steel flower stands.

Vestry;

- Table circa 1900 with drawer, centre-board of top requires re-gluing.
- Small oak lectern circa 1900 in reasonably sound condition. Nicely carved open front.
- Portable communion rail 1.2 metres long, plain oak construction with wrought iron stanchions and book rest. 19th century in reasonable condition.
- Built in to the south end of the east wall, a softwood lined cupboard some 400mm deep, probably 19th century. Four

panel door with nicely moulded beading. Remarkably good condition and little sense of damp.

19) TOILETS, KITCHENS, VESTRIES, ETC

The vestry is described separately in the forgoing. In short it requires an overhaul before it is fit for purpose.

During the quinquennium a servery of Oak constructed in the base of the tower, with fridge and in the west end of the north aisle an access toilet and flower area. These are excellent facilities in good order. Unfortunately there has been some joint failure; the fridge door style, and the south edge of the end screen (beside the stair door). Gluing and cramping is required.

20) ORGANS AND OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Located in the north transept, the consul facing south, a single manual and pedals bearing a maker's plaque 'W G Vowles, Bristol' and inside the keyboard case, 'Restored by Geo. Osmond & Co, Taunton'. Fitted with a Discus blower positioned immediately right of the organist. A pine case, modest. Upper part of zinc pipes, the consul bench style. Broadly in good condition. The tuners book beginning 1994 by Phillip S Baker, 9 Grange Road, Frome. Attendance sporadic during the quinquennium, by Liam Davis & Brian Hooper. The last record in the tuner's book declares all in good order, and I understand an organ that is a delight.

Organ blowers have been known to contain asbestos. I understand the organ tuner has checked the lining and confirmed there is no asbestos.

21) MONUMENTS, TOMBS, PLAQUES ETC

Sanctuary;

- on the north wall, Hannah Moore 1722, gold lettered black ledger possibly painted Lias within fine surround of broken pediment clasping heraldic device and beneath, a cornice held by quasi Ionic capitals over scagliola type stone shafts on further moulded plinth with beneath swags and the skull and crossbones. Either side of the shafts, further foliate in low relief. Most work painted grey and the ground black, all in broadly sound condition. The grey paint peeling.

North aisle;

- centrally under the eastern window, a polychrome brass plaque on chamfered oak ground George Mahon, former vicar died 1899, good condition.
- To the right, small brass plaque on oak George Banting 1922, good condition.
- To the left, further brass plaque on oak Richard Williams, former vicar between 1927 and 54, good condition.
- Between the north door and east window, more substantial monument as the sanctuary, John Johnson 1723. The ledger appears painted dark grey. Marble pilasters flanked by low relief foliate carving with figurative top beneath a two-centre inverse with inside a Lias panel with foliate border now much lost and painted, surrounded by further limestone foliate border with bust to base. Limestone painted grey and the paint in poor condition. Disfigured by water ingress to some extent. Heraldic device in broken pediment restrained by iron. Cleaning and some conservation work desirable.
- Beneath, a cast bronze plaque the 1914-1919 War

- memorial in very good condition.
- Immediately right, a further cast bronze plaque the 1939-45 War memorial also in very good condition.
- West of the north door, an oil painting behind glass in nice oak frame with egg and dart border. Good condition but the closeness to the wall presents damp concerns.

South aisle;

- East of the south door, a fine memorial William Hart Gill 1786. I think gold painted inscription to Lias ledger flanked by white marble grey veined pilasters further flanked by foliate scroll work from Lias I think, semicircular Lias panel beneath with urn and other funerary ornament. Broken pediment with heraldic device. Broadly in sound condition but the polychrome work poor.

22) SERVICES INSTALLATIONS GENERALLY

This report and comments are based on a visual examination only and no tests have been undertaken.

23) HEATING INSTALLATION

Every pew has an electric tubular underpew heater, mostly aluminium with some more recent white powder-coated units at the east end. These units generally individually wired. They are fixed to vanity boarding high up under the seats and unguarded however they are remote from physical contact. A portable electric fan heater provided in the vestry. The organist has a wall convector secured to the back of the choir stalls. Wired in FP200 with metal clad accessories. The tower room/servery has two Infra

Red wall mounted heaters and under-carpet electric heating with a supplementary portable oil filled electric radiator.

The installation appears generally in sound order but it notable there are two instances of failure and repair recorded in the log book. It will have limited ability to heat the building, broadly just taking off the chill, and given the age of many components has a limited life. It is understood heating was refurbished in 2003.

There is a redundant boiler room beneath the vestry accessible via steps against the north wall. A brick vaulted ceiling, stone walls and brick paved floor. There is an unglazed window providing ventilation, through which a bat evidently visits. Remarkably the ceiling vault is carried over the window and adjacent entrance door by a timber bressummer. This appears to be satisfactory condition, but without any damp preventive it will decay. The interior has no visible means of drainage; some water must run down the steps. There is some damp on the floor. Otherwise in fair order, very dirty. In the south west corner an old cast iron stove set in brick, no longer operable. Altogether the space in reasonably sound condition.

24) LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Lighting:

Throughout, the wall brackets for an earlier paraffin lamp lighting remain, a number electrified and fitted with brass 'crown' shades as uplighters. There are four brackets in the nave and two in the chancel, the latter redundant it seems and there are a small number of similar inverted 'gallows' brackets for hanging fittings, a pair at the rear of the nave and the rear of the chancel. The

chancel south-west potentially usable as a paraffin lamp, and several others with glass fuel vases. The fittings are well made, C19 and of some interest.

In the nave, aisles and chancel lighting was upgraded with replacement LED fittings during the quinquennium. It comprises wall-mounted floodlights, in the chancel four fittings in pairs on the east face of the roof truss arch braces western and central. In the nave centrally above the arcade apex north and south, two fittings only that produce good lighting to the forward pew blocks. The tower base meeting room/servery lit by LED downlighters, the toilet likewise.

In the nave electrified paraffin lamp holders above the columns appear to uplight the nave roof quite effectively. The aisles are lit by three small LED floodlights at wall plate level on the outer walls, also throwing lighting into the nave. A similar fitting in the south transept, and a pair of downlighting spotlights above the organ console. In the tower, a single floodlight uplighting from the south-east corner. The chancel roof beautifully lit. The altar could be lit a little better. In general, the lighting is quite good although a little gloomy toward the rear of the nave and aisles.

It would be important to observe the lighting at night to make a proper assessment of its effectiveness.

Electrical installation:

Mains power is delivered by an old 25mm PILC (paper insulated and lead cored) cable rising from ground level at the west end of the south aisle. 3-phase. PILC cables are prone to failure and this cable should be replaced when the opportunity arises. Any major reordering should include renewal. Distribution equipment is

relatively new, metal distribution boards with MCB fuses. It is not clear whether the power distribution has RCD protection. Cabling distribution is well concealed generally. Cabling appears to be white FP200 surface clipped with grey metal clad accessories. On the whole in generally good order.

It is understood the lighting and general power were rewired in 2003, and the heating refurbished. The log book records repairs since, particularly the heating.

The installation should be inspected and tested at least every 5 years by an NICEIC registered electrician or equivalent. This is likely to be a requirement of the insurers. In addition portable electrical appliances require period testing by a competent electrician.

25) AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

There does not appear to be any fixed installation and no hearing loop.

26) LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR

The tower is fitted with two down conductors and an aerial network; an 8mm diameter bare copper conductor in the angle of the tower north-east buttress, north face and a 30mm wide bare copper lightning conductor in the south-west angle, tower south face. There is an aerial network clipped inside the parapet at low level some 20mm wide copper with lesser straps rising as finials on the back of each pinnacle.

Each corner pinnacle of the tower parapet has a simply decorative iron finial and small copper weathervane connected to the lightning conductor. The GRP flagstaff is also bonded to the aerial network.

A label on the down conductors indicates the installation was last tested February 2021.

The system should be tested and inspected every so often. Ecclesiastical, the insurance company, have produced a useful guide for church safety which suggests testing every 2½ years is satisfactory for a small rural church.

27) FIRE PRECAUTIONS

There are a good number of extinguishers properly wall mounted and last inspected in November 2020. Immediately west of the south door a pair of 6 litre water with additive extinguishers and a 2kg CO₂. In the ringing chamber a 3 litre water with additive fire extinguisher also last inspected November 2020. In the tower base/servy a fire blanket.

28) DISABLED PROVISION AND ACCESS

Disabled access to the south gates would require either good physical fitness or assistance as there are small steps up on to the footpath, a steep climb to the stone apron outside the gates and then a further small step at the apron edge.

Within the nave, there is reasonable space for a wheelchair to stand in the central walkway and north aisle, however there are

numerous steps and the gently sloping nave and aisle floor may present some difficulties.

29) SAFETY

Tower stair; toward the top some woodwork treads becoming loose and refixing recommended for safety, also re-knotting the rope around the newel which is coming undone at the roof attachment.

The old wood bench in the newest part of the churchyard (north of the church) is falling to bits and requires repair/replacement.

A number of matters requiring urgent attention are noted in the recommendations.

All of the monuments need to be checked for safety from time to time.

30) BATS

I noted a pipistrel (I think) in the boiler room.

It is an offence to disturb or injure a bat or a bat roost. This includes restricting or altering access to the roost. Should work be needed that may disturb a bat, Natural England should be consulted.

CURTILAGE

31) CHURCHYARD

The settlement extends along the crown of a long promontory rising to the west with the church located toward the eastern end on the north side of the main street. The south frontage narrow, barely more than the length of the church which stands some 20m north of the road. The churchyard extends a further 7m or 8m north and has been extended some 20m to the east, and the east part 7m or 8m northward forming a 'Z' shape. This northern section in two parts, the western separated by a wall is the 'Civil Cemetery' where cremated remains predominate. Recent burials are all in the northernmost parts. The churchyard grass and falling gently from the north-west corner to the south-east perhaps 1m. The churchyard is surrounded on the west side by a public footpath, residential gardens to the north, the school grounds to the east – predominantly and a dwelling.

The Churchyard was "closed" on 21 July 1999, and maintenance handed to the District Council. The Civil Cemetery is the responsibility of the Parish Council. There is another parcel of land west of the church by the Hall car park that is being prepared as an extension to the Civil Cemetery and it is expected to be needed in 2-3 years for burials and cremations.

The old wood bench in the Civil Cemetery (north of the church) is falling to bits and requires repair/replacement.

32) RUINS

None.

33) MONUMENTS, TOMBS AND VAULTS

Wilcox chest tomb a few metres south east of the porch in fair condition; limestone panels and pilasters carrying a substantial cap stone. The plinth – of lots of short lengths of moulded limestone is much disrupted and clearly parts will fall into the cavity. The south side display rust jacking, where much of the panelling is loose. This tomb is listed, grade II and requires rebuilding with a new base (probably a concrete slab), a new spine wall and replacement of the cramps in non-ferrous. This work should attract grant aid; it will be impossible to fund otherwise.

Against the west boundary 5m south-west of tower a fine Lias headstone 19th century with excellent carving. In poor condition, several vertical fractures and some lost masonry.

Near the east boundary against the south wall Ann Padfield 1911 sandstone headstone may be easily toppled and for safety ought to be re-bedded. At the north-west corner of the extension there is a War Graves Commission headstone H Day 1942 in generally good condition. Turf has sunken somewhat exposing concrete securing the base.

Monuments should be checked from time to time for stability.

34) BOUNDARY WALLS, LYCHGATES AND FENCING

Internal pointing of the west boundary which runs alongside a public footpath poor and some remedial work would be beneficial. The coping generally in good condition protecting the wall. Patches of poor pointing and the overgrowth getting purchase in the coping. These plants should be treated with

biocide and when dead removed and the coping repaired.

I have not seen the outside of the north boundary. Internally it appears upright with a reasonable coping however there are large areas of poor pointing. Most of these concern the section forming the south boundary to the area for cremated remains. The coping poor and remedial work desirable.

The remainder of the north and east boundaries a lower wall generally upright and fair condition. Pointing at low level failing in many places.

The south end of the east boundary is the external wall of the neighbouring property and includes a number of casement windows. Rainwater from the roof is carried outside of the churchyard.

The south wall is listed, grade II. Generally in sound condition. The coping east of the gate becoming loose and decayed increasingly so to the east and requires repair & rebedding.

The gate overthrow requires repair to the stone interfaces where significant rust has undermined the iron, and repainting. Stone repairs to the apex of the gate piers are also required where the rust has fractured the masonry. The gates are in fair order and would benefit from painting within the quinquennium.

35) TREES AND SHRUBS

Several Yews, during the quinquennium served with a preservation order. An avenue of six nearly along the south path and a single specimen on the north side of the church. The trees appear to

have been well cared for and are generally in good order.

A good tree surgeon should inspect to check health and safety. Deadwood should be removed to prevent hazardous windfall.

Along the south boundary to the east churchyard a number of shrubs, variously overgrown. To the east end heavily invaded by bramble.

36) HARDSTANDING AREAS

A tarmacadam footpath between the south porch and main gates in reasonably good order. There are substantial cracks centrally as a result of Yew tree roots. Between the road and the main gates there is a paved apron and four broad steps. York stone in generally sound condition.

37) MISCELLANEOUS

N/A

38) LOG BOOK

The ring binder form commenced January 2007. It is diligently kept including churchwardens reports and a useful fabric checklist recording essential work required each year.

The log book is an extremely useful record of repairs and alterations to the building, and can be the key to diagnosing defects.

39) SECURITY

A monitored cctv wireless alarm system was installed to the Chancel, aisle and nave roofs during the quinquennium, initially to protect the roof lead while undergoing recovering and in order to retain insurance cover for theft. Further cctv was fitted within the Tower Room as some security for cash and IT held there.

PART 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance

Routine overhaul of roofs at least once a year should include renewal of pointing and wedging of lead flashings when found to be loose, examination and repair if necessary of lead gutters, particularly those where access is difficult. The parapet gutters, downpipes and gullies should all be regularly cleaned out. While this is being carried out, a visual check should be made to ensure that none of the roofing lead is slipping or creep ridges developing.

Repairs

I list below a summary of the repair works required, together with an indication of their urgency and cost. I must emphasize that the costs are given as the broadest of guidelines to the Parish and are not based upon detailed measurements or builders' estimates. Please remember that VAT is chargeable on all repairs (now recoverable under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme) and Architect's fees should be budgeted for in connection with the repairs.

N.B. The Church are reminded that all work on the building requires faculty approval. The Archdeacon should be consulted about all works to the

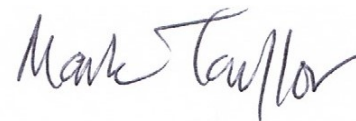
building and its fittings.

If a grant has been received from the Department of the Environment or English Heritage in the past, then English Heritage must be notified of any works proposed, other than routine maintenance.

Architect's specifications and recommendations will be required for faculty repairs.

1. Works required to be done urgently -	£
- Refix loose treads in tower stair & re-tie top of hand-rope around newel:	150
- Secure loose fractured masonry to E side ringing chamber window:	50
- Check bell rope at NE corner of clock chamber – fraying at 2.5m above floor?:	?
- Re-bed/make safe Ann Padfield headstone near S Boundary:	150
- Fit supplementary support to fractured iron floor grille, E end north aisle:	150
- Repair/replace bench in N churchyard extension:	150
 2. Works required to be done within 12 months -	 £
- Repair/replace split lead roof sheets; S aisle E bay:	250
- Make good failing flashing pointing/fixing; S aisle N abutment centrally (persistent leak);	50?
Chancel W abutment (where silicone failing);	250?
- Relieve blisters in lead graffiti panels:	250
- Lower anchor point for flag lanyard (eyelet in concrete?):	50
- Repaint N aisle rainwater pipes:	500

- Repair/rebuild N side ground gutter, also S side west of porch:	15,000
- Make good turf covering S side catch-pits:	50
- Rebuild/repair parapets;	
S aisle:	18,000
Porch:	5,000
N aisle:	5,000
- Pin vertical fracture in Nave parapet SE corner:	150
- Pin fracture in Nave S arcade, above first from west pier:	250
- Repointing;	
porch W wall by a conservator:	1,500
S aisle at ground level;	500
N aisle at ground level, inc. NW buttress;	750
- Repair/re-lead glazing, paint/repair ferramenta and ironwork; vestry:	2,000
- Stone repairs to windows;	
S aisle SW:	2,500
Chancel E:	1,000
N side all windows:	5,500
Tower W & door:	4,500
Ringing chamber & woodwork:	1,500
- Stone repairs to; chancel step:	500?
- Renew the flooring; nave and aisle pewed areas, Lady Chapel, N aisle floor grilles:	36,500
- Stone repairs to S gate piers, repaint gates & overthrow;	1,000
- Redecorate, with plaster repairs; vestry	1,500
3. Works to be done within 5 years -	£
- Repair of boundary walls:	15,000?
- Monitor the rust jacking of the tower merlon copings, SE & NW corners:	-



Signature of Architect

Date 13 April 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- A Any electrical installation should be tested at least every quinquennium by a registered NICEIC electrician, and a resistance and earth continuity test should be obtained on all circuits. The engineer's test report should be kept with the church log book. This present report is based upon a visual inspection of the main switchboard and of certain sections of the wiring selected at random, without the use of instruments.
- B Any lightning conductor should be tested every quinquennium in accordance with the current British Standard by a competent engineer, and the record of the test results and conditions should be kept with the church log book.
- C A proper examination and test should be made of the heating apparatus by a qualified engineer, each summer before the heating season begins.
- D A minimum of two water type fire extinguishers (sited adjacent to each exit) should be provided plus additional special extinguishers for the organ and boiler house, as detailed below. Large churches will require more

extinguishers. As a general rule of thumb, one water extinguisher should be provided for every 250 square metres of floor area.

Summary:

<i>Location -</i>	<i>Type of Extinguisher -</i>
General area:	Water
Organ:	CO ₂
Boiler House –	
Solid fuel:	Water
Gas fired:	Dry Powder
Oil fired:	Foam (or dry powder if electricity supply to boiler room cannot easily be isolated)

All extinguishers should be inspected annually by a competent engineer to ensure they are in good working order. Further advice can be obtained from the fire prevention officer of the local fire brigade and from your insurers.

E This is a summary report only, as it is required by the Inspection of Churches Measure; it is not a specification for the execution of the work and must not be used as such. The professional adviser is willing to advise the PCC on implementing the recommendations, and will if so requested prepare a specification, seek tenders and oversee the repairs.

F Although the Measure requires the church to be inspected every five years, it should be realized that serious trouble may develop in between these surveys if minor defects are left unattended. Churchwardens are required by the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 to make an annual

inspection of the fabric and furnishings of the church, and to prepare a report for consideration by the meeting of the PCC before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This then must be presented with any amendments made by the PCC, to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. **The PCC are strongly advised to enter into contract with a local builder for the cleaning-out of gutters and downpipes twice a year.**

Further guidance on the inspection and the statutory responsibilities are contained in How To Look After Your Church. The Churchwarden's Year gives general guidance on routine inspections and house keeping, and general guidance on cleaning is given in Handle with Prayer, both published for the CCC by Church House Publishing.

G The PCC are reminded that insurance cover should be index-linked, so that adequate cover is maintained against inflation of building costs. Contact should be made with the insurance company to ensure that insurance cover is adequate.

H The repairs recommended in the report will (with the exception of some minor maintenance items) be subject to the faculty jurisdiction.

I Woodwork or other parts of the building that are covered, unexposed or inaccessible have not been inspected. The adviser cannot therefore report that any such part of the building is free from defect.

This appendix is based on A Guide for the Quinquennial Inspection of Churches, Diocese of Birmingham, 1993.

Reference in Pevsner (2011 edition):

6040

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP

- 33 ST GILES. The Douling stone w tower has the most sophisticated decoration of all the Mendip churches; a date *c.* 1475–90 has been suggested. It derives from that at Mells, of which Leigh was a chapelry until 1860. It is 91 ft 6 in. (28 metres) high and of four stages, having angle buttresses with diagonals filling all three angles, the typical Mendip plan. The diagonals have two set-offs like a buttress, closely stepped as at Wells and Salisbury. In the top stage three tall openings, each of two lights, with a central transom and Somerset tracery. The composition repeated with blind lights in the stage below. Each corner has two pairs of pinnacles set on the diagonal, the lower pairs rising from the buttress set-offs at the second stage and finishing at the top of the third, the upper pairs starting between the lower ones at the third stage, and rising to flank the main corner pinnacles at parapet level. Here, battlements with big pierced quatrefoils, and little trefoils below. Two attached shafts on each face of the parapet form intermediate pinnacles: a total of twenty-eight pinnacles – eight on the buttresses, twenty at the top. A remarkable performance. w doorway with ogee gable reaching up in front of the foot of the four-light w window (two-light sub-arches). On the s side a small window flanked by niches. Tower arch with wave moulding. Under the tower springers of an uncompleted vault.
- The clerestoried nave is equally decorated but short. Its high blank E wall drops abruptly to a low chancel, an unsatisfactory composition. The nave is probably later than the tower, let us say *c.* 1490–1520. Masonry joins date the aisles after the tower. The small N and s chapels were added, probably together, after the aisles. The s side has parapets with two rows of pierced quatrefoils on the clerestory, and a single row on the aisle, dated 1620 (possibly a repair or alteration). The chancel is below the nave floor level, and must pre-date it, although altered and re-roofed *c.* 1500. Uneven nave arcades of two-and-

two-and-a-half bays, the w pair lower and narrower. Piers of standard type (four hollows), but the crude moulded capitals and bases differ on N and s (i.e. aisles of different dates). The chancel arch and chapel arches have octagonal capitals and bases. Three-light windows in aisles and clerestory, in the aisles straight-headed. The chapels have ogee-arched lights in square frames, and on the s side, a PISCINA of similar pattern to the lights. A bigger plain-arched PISCINA at the E end of the s aisle. Late Perp chancel E window of five lights, under a four-centred arch and with a transom in the tracery. Excellent tie-beam roofs of Somerset type in nave and chancel on big angel corbels, and decorated with demi-figures and whole figures of angels. Also decorated bosses, and fine decorated wall-plates of vines etc. in the chancel. Panelled aisle roofs, late medieval on the N. Over the sanctuary step, angel corbels for a Lenten veil. The church was partially restored or repaired in 1884, 1898–9, and (by *Whitaker & Hole* of Paulton) in 1909.

FITTINGS. PULPIT. Oak, Neo-Perp, late C19 or early C20. – FONT. Norman, plain, square bowl with two heavy scallops on each side, on a circular foot. Early C17 oak COVER of eight S-stays forming a crown. – BENCHES. An uncommonly complete set, late C15 and simple, straight-topped, with tracery decoration. – A possibly C13 STOUP in the s porch. – STAINED GLASS. Medieval fragments assembled in the w window, with roundels including the Instruments of the Passion (cf. Westwood, Wilts.); some possibly Continental. – MONUMENTS. Three similar Ionic tablets, probably by the same family of masons; John and Francis Johnson, *c.* 1720; Hannah Moore †1722; John Hartgill †1786.