Saint Mary and All Saints, Hampton Lovett

Treatment Report

June 2023

Treatment of

Pulpit and adjacent tile floors.

Report prepared for:
The PCC

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TREATMENT REPORT

Job No.	Issue No.	Description	Issue Date	Reviewed with
22400	1	Treatment report	June 2023	BH

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROPERTY: Saint Mary and All Saints, Hampton Lovett

REGION: West Midlands

LOCATION: South Chancel and Nave

OBJECT: Pulpit and tile floors

MATERIALS: Caen stone Pulpit and Edwardian tiles

SURVEYED BY:

WRITTEN BY: Nicholas Barnfield

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cliveden Conservation Workshop Limited were commissioned by Arnold Bartosch Ltd, Architects on behalf of the PCC for St Mary and All Saints, Hampton Lovett to undertake repairs to the Church Pulpit and adjacent floors. The repairs were to be undertaken according to the revised specification issued 3rd May 2022.

This report discusses the conservation treatment undertaken, and is prepared at the request of Arnold Bartosh Ltd. The specified works involved part dismantling of the Pulpit and its re-fixing together with surface repairs. The repairs to the tile floor involved lifting disrupted tiles at the base of the pulpit steps and a small area at the termination of the south side nave pews in front of the Pulpit. While undertaking this work a further area of disrupted tiles were observed that extended up the south side of the Chancel between the pew and kneeler and these tiles were also stabilised.

1.1 Summary of report

This report outlines the treatment undertaken and materials used.

1.2 Access

No scaffold access was required for these works

2.0 TREATMENT

2.1

The treatment to the Pulpit followed the following methodology:

- Before works commenced a photographic record of the Pulpit was made to record surface and structural condition before works.
- The structural repairs were identified and involved the lifting off the top moulding sections of the pulpit. These were put to one side and bedding mortar and extant fixings removed.
- The moulding sections were re-fixed sequentially on eight millimetre diameter threaded stainless steel dowels set in polyester resin, each stone had two dowels.
  The bedding mortar was NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime, fine sand and Portland stone dust to achieve a fine two millimetre joint and joints and joggles were filled with the same mix. All open joints found on the Pulpit were pointed with the same fine mortar mix.
- The surface of the Pulpit at the base from the floor to the carved decorative panels all exhibited blistering of the surface and loss on extreme edges of detail. These stones showed discolouration and we suspect a linseed oil surface preparation common in Edwardian and mid 20th century had been applied.
- Cleaning tests including steam, water poultice and diamethylene chloride were tried or applied to remove or at least soften the coating but none were successful.
- The blisters were removed from the surface and holes and missing edges were filled and brought into 'line' with a lime putty, Cotswold and Horton brown stone dust repair mortar (1 lime 2 Cotswold ¼ Hornton). Large missing moulding sections were built around three millimetre stainless steel armatures set in polyester resin.
- The upper decorative panels were considered to be in good order and the surface unblemished but there was a distinct division between this stone and the blemished stained stone below. To unify this, contrast a lime wash was applied to the lower blemished orders that matched the Caen stone above.

- The lime wash consisted of a finer sieved version of the repair mortar described above with the addition of water to make a paint the consistency of thick milk. A total of eight coats were applied to the areas.

2.2

The treatment of the tiled floors followed the following methodology:

- The loose tiles were mapped, numbered and removed to safe storage.
- With the substrate exposed the appointed archaeologist George Nash was asked to excavate and ascertain whether the area needed archaeological investigation or if works could proceed (see separate report).
- The survey found nothing of interest and works proceeded excavating the substrate to one hundred and fifty millimetres and the material carted away.
- The substrate was replaced with one hundred millimetres of type 1 ballast that was well tamped. This was followed by an NHL 3.5 and 3 coarse flooring sand bed onto which the tile was re-laid in their original position.
- The tiles surface joints grouted with a fine sand lime mix of NHL 3,5 hydraulic lime fine sand aggregate pigmented to match the existing
- The same methodology was followed in the additional chancel floor works. To reduce disruption the original mortar bed was excavated beneath seemingly 'sound' tiles with the tiles left in situ and the new bed 'tamped' beneath them. The removed tile was re-laid in aforementioned method.

3.0 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

It was noted that the moisture and water ingress appeared to be from within the body of the church rather than from external sources. Further investigations or monitoring are recommended

3.1 Ongoing maintenance

A regular survey of the flooring should be undertake to record seasonal variations in dampness appearing to the floor, as it is likely this may continue.

3.2 Environmental recommendations

None

LIST OF APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A- PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

Figure 1. Moulding before works

Figure 2. 8mm dowel

Figure 3. Molding fixed

Figure 4. Pulpit surface before works

Figure 5 rebuilding missing moulding

Figure 6 work complete with lime wash

Figure 7 Pulpit tiles removed

Figure 8 Pulpit tiles re-fixecd

Figure 9 nave pulpit area before work

Figure 10 nave pulpit after work

Figure 11, Chancel floor before work

Figure 12. Chancel floor loose tile removed.