

HERITAGE STATEMENT

The Old School Room, Compton Martin, Somerset BS40 6JQ

June 2024

Proposal:

Upgrading the existing toilets to provide accessible disabled facilities.

Replacing the existing corrugated cement and polycarbonate roof with clay double roman tiles and two new conservation roof lights. Replacing two Crittall metal windows with timber casement windows to match those existing on the old school room. Widening two internal doors to the toilets from 850mm to 1000mm access for disabled users.

Application Drawings:

This application should be read in conjunction with the following drawings:

P02, P03, P04, P05, P06

Design and Access Statement.

Setting

The church of St Michael the Archangel is situated in the centre of the village of Compton Martin.

The church and Old Schoolroom are located within the Compton Martin Conservation Area and Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The church is Grade I listed and constructed of sandstone rubble with limestone ashlar dressings and lead roofs with raised coped verges. It consists of a Nave, Chancel, South Aisle, South Chapel, West Tower and North Porch. The church dates back to the 12th Century with a 15th Century Norman style perpendicular tower, repaired Chancel (1853) with further restoration in 1901 and 19th Century decorated style internally.

The Old Schoolroom is located to the north west of the churchyard and was erected in 1843 by Rev. J C. Browne (Rector) and is recorded on a Tithe map circa 1840 (see below – no.141). Rev.

Browne arrived at Compton Martin with 11 children and found he had nowhere to send them to school. By 1845 he constructed a school (now known as the Old Schoolroom) which continued until 1950, the original stone sign ('Compton Martin School') remains on the front elevation.

The Old Schoolroom is not listed, however, it is in the grounds of the Grade I listed church. The building is situated at the North West of the churchyard at the main gated entrance, with access via steps and a small porch to the north.



The building is constructed of local sandstone rubble with timber windows and doors and clay tiled roofs. Inside the building consists of a large hall, porch, store room, ladies and gents toilets and kitchen to the rear.

A Norman parish church in Somerset, with much mid-C12 work. Norman are the four-bay nave and its clerestory, both nave arcades, the chancel, and perhaps the fabric of the low and narrow N aisle. In the space above the chancel vault a small medieval columbarium to supply pigeons for the priest's table. An entrance door high up in the N wall, and near it, a smaller entrance for the pigeons, formerly protected by a wooden louvre. The clerestory N side has four small windows, a corbel table of monsters, heads, etc., and at the eaves a fine chevron frieze

delicately beaded. On the S the clerestory is still visible inside the aisle, which in the mid C15 was heightened and extended with a S chancel chapel (Bickfield Chantry). Perp aisle windows, plain and uncusped on N, good-quality ogee tracery on the S, contemporary with the heightening. The S aisle came after the W tower, for which a legacy is recorded in 1443. The tower design is atypical of Somerset Perp. It is of four stages and rather busy. Diagonal buttresses. On the three set-offs truncated pinnacles. Each buttress ends in a pair of thin pinnacles, independent of the parapet. Unusually this is composed of concave-sided cusped lozenges. Odd second stage which has only a small niche or a small window and otherwise a system of diagonally set pinnacles disposed across the wall surface. Two-light bell openings flanked by niches. The tower arch has two ranges of cusped panelling.* Restorations by *S. B. Gabriel*, 1858, including the unfortunate replacement of the E window, and by *T.G. Jackson* with *Harvey Pridham* of West Harptree, 1902-3.

Interior. The chancel is remarkably impressive, low and austere, of two rib-vaulted bays. The transverse arch rests on strong tripartite shafts with trefoil capitals. It is square in section with chevron decoration to the w. Ribs of early profile, a half-roll flanked by hollows. No bosses, but in the centre of the W bay, four animal heads eating the ends of ribs, in flat relief. Norman PILLAR PISCINA, from Priddy. The Nave arcades have circular piers with regular scalloped capitals and one-stepped arches. But the last pier on the S side has in section eight rolls flanked by beading, with flutes between. All this is twisted spirally, on the precedent of Durham Cathedral and descendants, especially Prittington church, Co. Durham. The chancel arch and the S arcade bay E of the spiral –fluted pier have re-cut with Perp mouldings, and latter arch also heightened, the intention probably being to remodel the entire S arcade. The resulting subsidence at the chancel arch forced a halt, leaving a half-completed demonstration of the process by which so many of Somerset's Perp naves must have originated. Norman arched altar recess, N aisle E. Perp N aisle roof with big carved bosses.

FITTINGS. ALTAR RAIL. C17, heavy arcaded openings. – FONT. Norman, circular, with a chip-caved zigzag frieze. – SCREENS. S Chapel. W side, c. 1500-20. Facing the chancel, possibly a C17 imitation. ORGAN. Pretty Gothic case by *Groves & Mitchell*, c.1850 STAINED GLASS. E window by Murray of London, 1902. Two lancets with symbols of Evangelists by *Wailes*. Chancel M, *J. H. Powell*, 1871. By *Hardman Studios*, 1943-50: two porch lights; three N aisle windows; four clerestory lights. MONUMENTS. Thomas de Monreton, c.1290 (N aisle). Rare civilian effigy, of Blue Lias flatly carved (cf. Paulton). Ann Abraham 1800, by *Henry Wood*. Seated woman with anchor.

Photographs:



Existing roof covering.



South Elevation existing window.



Existing roof from the inside and existing toilet facilities.



Existing doors to be replaced.

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS List entry Number: 1320751

Location

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, MAIN STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority. County: District: Bath and North East Somerset District Type: Unitary Authority

Parish: Compton Martin

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 21-Sep-1960 Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system. Legacy System: LBS UID: 32980

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Details

ST 55 NW COMPTON MARTIN C.P. MAIN STREET (south side) 5/85 Church of St. Michael and All Angels G.V. I

Parish church. C12, late C15 tower and alterations to aisles, chancel repaired 1853 and restored 1901 for Reverend W. Burland. Sandstone rubble with limestone ashlar at upper levels of aisles and corners of chancel, limestone dressings, lead roofs with raised coped verges. West tower, nave, north aisle and north porch, south aisle and south chapel, chancel. Norman style, Perpendicular tower and alterations to aisles, Decorated style C19 alterations. 4-stage tower has 4-centred arched West door in moulded surround with carved spandrels, hood mould and string course above, tall 3-light window above with hood mould, 2nd stage has image niche with pinnacles, diagonal shaft with crockets above, similar diagonal shaft to each side; 3rd stage has similar image niche, 4th stage 2-light bell-opening with stone louvres, image niche and diagonal shaft to each side, south and north sides have lower string course as to west, 2nd stage north has small trefoil-headed window of 2-lights with diagonal shaft to each side; octagonal north stair turret has 4-centred arched door, lancets, diagonal shafts at corners at 2nd stage, pierced stone parapet; east side of tower above nave roof has paired string courses with gargoyle to lower string and crocketed diagonal shafts between, 3rd and 4th stages as to west; plinth, strings between stages, diagonal weathered buttresses with shafts on lower set offs, possibly formerly for images, gargoyles at 3rd stage and pinnacled shafts at 4th stage, pinnacles to top, top string course with gargoyles and pierced stone tracery parapet. 4-bay north aisle has 3 C19 3-light Decorated style windows with hood mould, 2nd bay from right has gabled porch with pointed arched opening, moulded verges and cross finial. Nave has 4 clerestorey windows visible above north aisle, round-headed with torus mouldings, Norman corbel table with zigzag and beading, mask and monster corbels alternating with beaded corbels, to east under corbel table, a wider zigzag and beaded corbel, cross finial to nave. South aisle of 4 bays has 3-light Perpendicular west window with hood mould, three 3-light south windows with hood moulds, 2nd bay from left has pointed arched door with hood mould and mask stops, diagonal buttresses and buttresses. South chapel has similar south and east windows, small pointed arched door to east, plinth, weathered string course, cornice, parapet and coping. 2-bay chancel has Perpendicular style east window of 1902, with ogee head and hood mould, quatrefoil above and cross finial, lancet with cusped trefoil head, hood mould and small mask stops to south, to north, large weathered buttress, similar lancet with plain hood mould to each side, small blocked rectangular lancet above and upper door to right with 4-centred arched chamfered head, with plank and batten door with strap hinges, chamber over chancel formerly used as pigeon loft. Interior: tower has framed ceiling in 9 panels, moulded ribs with 4 bosses, on corbels, tall pointed tower arch with panelled soffit and jambs, cusped ends to panels, hollow-chamfered and wave-moulded surround. Nave has wagon ceiling with moulded ribs forming 7 bays, with bosses along moulded ridge purlin, mask corbels under ribs and moulded wall-plate; 4-bay north arcade of cylindrical columns on plain plinths with circular scalloped capitals and one-stepped round arches, pier to east has more elaborate moulded scallops on square capital with chevrons above; 4 round-headed clerestorey lights above, with segmental rere-arches; 4 bay south arcade has 3 similar columns to west, 4th column twisted

spirally, with flutes flanked by rolls, flanked by beading, arch to east raised in C15 to Perpendicular style with small jamb- shaft to west, hollow-chamfered and wave-moulded, only upper section of clerestorey window above remaining, 3 clerestorey lights to west as on north side but unglazed, because of raised south aisle roof; wide, moulded segmental arch to chancel, pier to south has wave-mould to each of 4 sides, shaft-ring and moulded capital, also serving as springer for chancel vault and south chapel arch, similar engaged pier to north, brattished wall-plate above chancel arch, 3-light C19 trefoil headed window above with pointed segmental headed rere-arch. North aisle has pitched roof of 4 bays, arched- braces, principal and common rafters and one purlin, all moulded with fine carved bosses, arched-braces rising from stone mask corbels: to east, a

struts, pointed arched surround to door, hollow-moulded, with slender jamb shafts, door with raised fillets and strap hinges. South aisle has roof raised above Norman corbel table, as on north nave exterior, stonework above south arcade of rubble with mortices from former aisle roof, dressed masonry above former roof line, similar mouldings to clerestorey windows; 4-bay C19 roof with tie-beams set on wall-posts on corbels, braces with pierced carving between tie and principal rafters, purlin with struts to tie-beam; pointed arched, hollow-moulded surround to south door, moulded pointed arch to south chapel, engaged pier to south with 2 nave-mouldings. South chapel has roof as in south aisle, 4-centred arch to chancel, engaged pier to east with wave-mouldings and brattished capital; former upper window to chancel, blocked, and remains of possible carved figure. Chancel has 2 stone rib- vaulted quadripartite bays, the transverse arch resting on strong tripartite shafts, with scalloped capitals with chevrons to south, trefoil tops with scallops and chevrons to north; arch is square in section with zigzag decoration to west face; ribs have half-roll profile, flanked by hollows, west bay has rib to north west rising from corbel with scallop and chevron capital, 4 animal heads in flat relief carved at meeting of 4 ribs; east bay has 2 engaged shafts to east with scallop and chevron capitals as springers for ribs. Fittings: Norman piscina on plain shaft in chancel, found at Priddy; Norman font in nave, circular with chip-carved zigzag frieze; carved wooden Perpendicular style screen to west and north of south chapel; C19 Romanesque stone pulpit in nave; Russian icon in north aisle; 2 boards in porch recording gifts to the parish; 2 brass chandeliers in nave. In north aisle, a painted, recumbent effigy, c.1290, possibly to Thomas de Morton, flatly carved, set in recess with wide triangular arch with rosettes on hollow moulding; marble tablet with woman and anchor, to Ann Hoskyns, 1800; marble tablet to John Hoskyns, 1805 by Wood of Bristol; marble sarcophagus tablet, to Sir John Henniker, 1872, by E. Bingham of London; C18 stone tablet, inscription obscured. In south aisle a stone tablet with broken segmental pediment and cherub, to James Millard, 1777. In south chapel, stone tablet with bolection-moulded surround and scallop shell, dedication illegible, 1722; ledger stone beneath organ, to George Roynon, 1637. On north arcade, marble tablet with segmental pediment, to John and Mary Weekes, 1722. East window has stained glass by Murray of London, 1902. (Sources: Pevsner, N.: Buildings of England : North Somerset and Bristol. 1958. Selley, A. : Compton Martin and its Environs, a Corner of Beautiful Somerset. 1923).

Listing NGR: ST5449456984

