

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
DRAFT V25 15th September 2024

St.Dubricius Church, Porlock

Benefice: Porlock with St. Nicholas Porlock Weir, Stoke Pero,
Selworthy & Luccombe

Diocese of Bath and Wells
Taunton Deanery

Grade 1 listed church in West Somerset
Grid reference: SS88642 4665



North View from High Street

INDEX

Section 1:

The church in its urban / rural environment.

- 1.1 Setting of the Church**
- 1.2 The Churchyard**
- 1.3 Social History**
- 1.4 The church building in general**

Section 2:

The church building in detail

- 2.1 Brief Architectural Description**
- 2.2 Walls**
- 2.3 Windows**
- 2.4 Tower**
- 2.5 Spire**

- 2.6 Church Roofs and Ceilings**
- 2.6.1 The chancel roof**
- 2.6.2 Nave Roof Timbers**
- 2.6.3 The South Aisle roof**
- 2.6.4 Lady Chapel wagon roof**
- 2.6.5 Chapel of the High Cross roof**
- 2.6.6 Clergy Vestry roof**

- 2.7 Chapel of the High Cross with Porch below**
- 2.7.1 Parvis Chamber or Chapel of the High Cross**
- 2.7.2 North Porch**

- 2.8 Internal Finishes**
- 2.9 Rood Loft**
- 2.10 The Servedy**
- 2.11 Clergy Vestry**
- 2.12 Store room.**
- 2.13 Organ Chamber**

- 2.14 Internal Features**
- 2.14.1 The Sanctuary**
- 2.14.1.1 Reredos and Triptych**
- 2.14.1.2 The Pulpit**
- 2.14.1.3 The Lectern**
- 2.14.1.4 The Sanctuary Communion rail**
- 2.14.1.5 The Chancel and Priests' stalls**

2.14.2	The Lady Chapel
2.14.2.1	The Lady Chapel Reredos
2.14.2.2	The Lady Chapel Communion Rails
2.14.2.3	Memorial Gate

2.14.3	Stained Glass
2.14.3.1	Chancel stained glass
2.14.3.2	Lady Chapel East stained glass
2.14.3.3	South aisle Memorial stained glass
2.14.3.4	North Aisle Memorial stained glass
2.14.3.5	The West Tower stained glass

2.14.4	The Harington Monument.
2.14.5	Tomb Recesses.
2.14.6	Tombs.
2.14.7	Organ.
2.14.8	Pre-Norman ornate fragments
2.14.9	Font.
2.14.10	The Ancient Clock
2.14.11	Victorian Clock
2.14.12	Bells
2.14.13	The south door
2.14.14	The north door

2.15	Utilities
2.15.1	Lighting
2.15.2	Heating
2.15.3	The crypt boiler room
2.15.4	Drainage

2.16	Significance for Mission
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Section 3 :

Assessment of the Impact of the Proposals on the Significance

3.1	Tower
3.1.1	The Works for the Tower
3.1.2	The Impact for the Tower
3.2	Spire
3.2.1	The works for the Spire
3.2.2	The impact for the Spire
3.3	Roofs on Nave South Face, and Chapel of the High Cross
3.3.1	The Works for the Roofs

3.3.2 The Impact for the Roofs

3.4 Reredos & Triptych

3.4.1 The Works for the Reredos/Triptych

3.4.2 The works for the Harington Monument

3.4.3 The Impact for the Reredos/Triptych & Harington Monument

3.5 The PV Panels

3.5.1 The works for the PV Panels

3.5.2 The Impact for the PV Panels

~~**3.6 The Glass Doors**~~

~~**3.6.1 The works for the Glass Doors**~~

~~**3.6.2 The Impact for the Glass Doors**~~

3.7 Motion Detectors for Church Internal Lights

3.7.1 The works for the Motion Detectors

3.7.2 The Impact for the Motion Detectors

3.8 The Churchyard

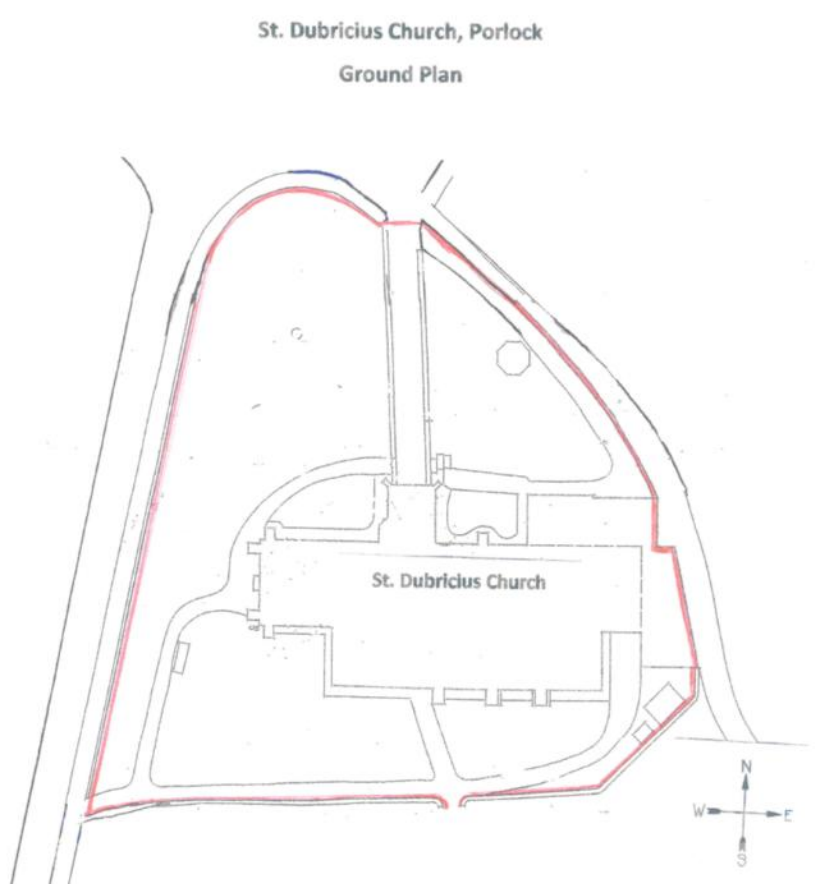
3.8.1 The Works for the Churchyard

3.8.2 The Impact for the Churchyard

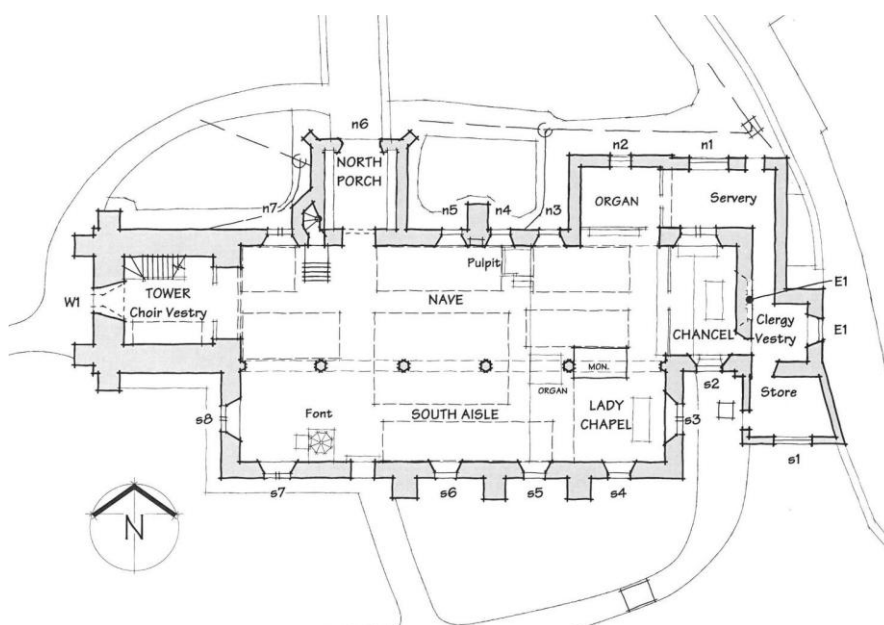
3.9 Overall Conclusion

Section 4 :

Sources consulted



From plan by William E Marsden architect c 1966



SKETCH PLAN OF CHURCH – Not to Scale

J Rhind Architect 2023

1.2 The Churchyard



South West view from Parsons Street

The churchyard of about half an acre is relatively flat with a slight fall down to the north towards the coast. The entrance to the church is via the north porch which is approached by the main flagstone path which was re-laid in 2020 and provides an accessible route from the High Street. The grassed area of ground is slightly raised from the adjoining paths. On the west side there is also a tarmac path from the side gate in Parsons Street. The boundary wall on the north and west sides are topped with metal paling fencing with a wrought iron gate from the High Street.

The churchyard has mainly 18C and 19C headstones. It was closed to new burials by Order-in-Council in 1889 and the maintenance of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Porlock Parish Council.

The 15th Century cross is made of the local red sandstone and has an octagonal base block on octagonal steps. The shafting and stepped base was repaired and restored in 1898, with the top part shaft in native sandstone. The new head of Doultine Stone was copied from a fragment of the original which was found in a wall of a nearby cottage

which was being demolished. A prominently sited flagpole visible from the High street is located in the northern area of the churchyard.

There is an ancient yew tree reputed to be over 1,000 years old located on the north side and a fine 200 year old specimen yew tree to the south.

1.3 Social History

The building is open every day during daylight hours as a place of reflection and quiet contemplation for visitors to explore or for walkers to shelter in. A Victorian clock was installed in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and the funds for this were raised by public subscription.

The church attracts many visitors throughout the year as it is in a prominent position in the centre of Porlock. There is seating for about 120 people, and the Sunday congregation is about 50. Major services and funerals may have in excess of 200 people attending. The Church of England school is adjacent to the church which is frequently used by the school. A regular Saturday children's club has been a welcome feature.

Additionally, concerts are regularly held in the church and the churchyard has hosted village picnics notably during the summer Olympics 2012, the Queens' Platinum Jubilee 2022 and the King's coronation in 2023.

Many people enjoy walking and sitting in the Churchyard; this is highlighted by the number of seats around the Churchyard. A finger post which highlights the walks and special village features is situated by the church railings on the main road. There is a footpath through the Churchyard which is used daily by walkers/ramblers going to/from the South West coastal path or up Hawkcombe and by local people out for a stroll or dog walking.

Whilst no headstones or monuments in the Churchyard are listed, several have quaint epitaphs. They are of high social and historical significance to the community and a record of them was made by the Women's Institute in 1960. Copies are kept at the church, at Dovery Manor Museum, Porlock Library, and also at Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton.

The churchyard is used annually by the MU for a fair, frequently by the young children of the youth club, and occasionally for village events such as the community Coronation event. Walkers and cyclists often meet there, and additional benches were recently installed to make it an even more welcoming space to sit.

The Porlock Rose Gate was the original private entrance between the Old Rectory and the churchyard of St. Dubricius. It was commissioned in approximately 1890 and it is a unique example of decorative wrought-iron work by a local Victorian blacksmith. It was restored by a local blacksmith in 2012. St. Dubricius C of E First School is adjacent to the church on the south side was built on part of the Old Rectory land and the gate is now the main access between the school and the church. About 50 metres from the Church, on the south side is the new Rectory, where the incumbent for the Benefice lives.

1.4 The church building in general

St. Dubricius Church is a Grade I listed Parish church in Porlock, Somerset. It was dedicated in about 1280 and is a rare dedication to St. Dubricius, a 6th Century Welsh saint who brought Christianity to the communities of the Exmoor coastline.

The building is of medium size and seats a congregation of 120. The earliest church at Porlock dated back to probably the latter part of the 11th Century. This was apparently destroyed by fire, for the only traces of this Saxon era are to be found in the fragments of masonry in the North and West walls of the nave.

The church of St. Dubricius is a building of stone in the Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. It now consists of chancel and nave without structural division, save in variation of roof construction. A south aisle not extending the whole length of the church; with eastern vestry, nave of four bays, aisles, north porch, with parvise, a modern organ chamber and a western tower with an octagonal broached spire of wood, with truncated top and dormers at the base. The total outer length of the church is 112 ft. 6 in, the nave is 18 ft. wide internally, and the aisle 14 ft.

There are two distinct eras in the fabric, one in about 1200 when the church was erected by benefactors, the Roges family who held the Manor in Porlock. Much of the present building belongs to the 13th century and to the Early English period of architecture which lasted for about a hundred years from circa 1180 to 1280. The building has a 13th Century west tower and a late 13th to early 14th Century south arcade.

Reconstruction took place in the 15th Century. About 1420, in the Early Perpendicular Period, the building was greatly restored by Sir John de Harington. The walls of the south aisle were raised and the arcade reconstructed and a barrel timbered roof erected. Beautiful decorated windows replaced the former slender lancets. The reconstruction work was completed by his widow Elizabeth, whilst the Harington monument was erected in the centre of that aisle, before the side altar. Sir John had endowed two chantry priests, who resided in chantry Cottage near the east sacristy, to pray for the souls of his ancestors.

Evidence of the Late Perpendicular Period is depicted in the large North Porch and its Parvis Chamber above and east vestry or sacristy which were added in the 15th Century.

There is a small crypt beneath the sanctuary, now used as the boiler room. The north windows of the nave are of about 1460 with grotesque heads as hood or label mould terminals.

The wooden spire was damaged in the storm of 1703 and left in its truncated form and the 15th Century Rood Screen was removed in 1769. After decades of remedial repairs to the church during the late 18C and early 19C the church was in a sad state. Wood shingled church spires were common in the West Country. Its truncated stature is significant as it is unusual, it is one of a few remaining in the country and believed to be the only one in the south west with an entirely timber structure.

Major restoration was undertaken in the Victorian era during the incumbency of Revd Hook with Mr J D Sedding and Mr. Samson appointed as architects. The wooden spire was restored in 1884 and major restoration of the remaining church and tower

was undertaken in 1889. The walls were straightened as far as possible and the nave roof was entirely renewed. The oak roof has been rebuilt in the shape and lines of the ancient roof following a pattern the architect found in the old decayed structure. Some of the original timbers were preserved mainly in the south aisle and the north transept was added in 1890. An organ chamber was built replacing part of the external north wall which was too decayed to restore. A Victorian clock was installed in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. It has faces on three sides of the tower replacing the ancient clock which is on display in the west end of the nave.

The church was restored by local craftsmen Huish and Cooksley and in 1892 new choir stalls were made locally from designs of J D Sedding. In 1901 further alterations were made including new stain glass windows to the east end with the remaining pastel shaded windows in Early English style with Arts and Crafts glazing by architect J D Sedding.

An oak panelled partition was installed in the archway between the church and the tower in 1937 to enclose the base of the tower to form the Choir Vestry. The bell ringing gallery of English Oak above the choir vestry was constructed enabling the lancet window to be seen with its stain glass window depicting St. Dubricius.

A store-room as built on the south east elevation of the church in 1966 when the architect was W E Marsden. Work was carried out by the architect Robert Chambers to convert the mediaeval building behind the sanctuary back to a clergy vestry in 2009. As part of these alterations a new servery was fitted out in the former meeting room and a W.C. was installed in the south-east room. Access to Chapel of High Cross from the church was made safer in 2005 with a new wooden staircase constructed leading to the original stone spiral steps.

2.0 The church building in detail

2.1 Brief Architectural Description

Historic England: extract from statutory listing 22/5/1969

Listing NGR: SS8864246665

- 4-bay nave and south aisle
- vestry chamfered pointed arch doorway,
- blind niche and inserted trefoil headed lancet above pointed arch opening,
- inserted lancet on left return first floor,
- rendered, exposed quoins to openings.
- Five bay arcade of octagonal piers, pointed arch openings chamfered in 2 orders.
- pointed chamfered tower arch,
- Low trefoil-headed opening to rood stair door opposite third pier from chancel with roof loft opening in spandrel.
- Trefoil-headed piscina in chancel;
- 4-centred chamfered arch openings to priest's vestry from chancel,
- 4-centred chamfered arch openings to blocked south aisle entrance,
- 4-centred chamfered arch openings to parvise stairway,

2.2 Walls

It is thought that the medieval walls of the church and tower were originally plastered externally as some earlier render remains. All the random rubble stonework would have been originally rendered as is evidenced on the tower and in part to other areas of the church masonry. The older parts of the masonry are of small local random rubble stone, Blue Lias and local red sandstone with Ham stone dressings.

The north transept is of ashlar red sandstone and Douling stone with Ashlar sandstone to the window tracery and door surrounds. Ashlar 19th century chequered masonry forms an important architectural feature along the north side of the church where the north transept has been constructed. This has a squared rubble masonry first stage, generally laid to course and an Ashlar third stage forming the parapet to the roof. The Organ Chamber, dated 1890, is built in three sections, the lower of snecked masonry, the middle section of sandstone in a chequer effect the upper part of freestone. The south aisle walls has three large girth buttresses which were added in the 18th Century to support the walls which were leaning out. The height of the original south walls can be seen when the roof was a thatched lean-to. The storeroom which was a 1966 addition has solid masonry walls.

2.3 Windows

The chancel has an east window of three tall Early English lancets with blunt heads, plainly chamfered, and grouped under a single rear arch which has the peculiarity of being four centred. The window in the south chancel wall is 15th Century, with a single quatrefoil tracery light under a very depressed head. There is a label with a grotesque stop on one side. The sill within is lowered so as to serve as a sedilia. The window in the north chancel wall above the tomb has a 2-light cinquefoil head and is also 15th Century.

The East (Lady Chapel) and west windows of the aisle have three lights trefoiled-headed, with two single panels trefoiled lights in the tracery. The windows on the south side of the aisle have two trefoil-headed lights with a single cinque-foiled light in the tracery. The aisle windows are evidence of early Perpendicular construction. The labels have the characteristic 14th Century section, but the tracery of the windows can be paralleled elsewhere as late as 1443 and 1446.

The three two-light Perpendicular windows on the north side of the church, all belong to the middle of the 15th Century, with variations in detail as they were not inserted at the same time. All are of two lights, with two trefoil-headed lights in the tracery. The window east of the porch in the nave has trefoiled heads to the main lights and may be earlier than the others, all have head stops to the labels. The small 19th Century window high up, has two trefoil headed lights under a square head.

There is a single light window in the gable of the Parvis/ Chapel of the High Cross. It has a weathered soft red sandstone trefoiled ogee-head under a square top with a label which has a simple return, and squint windows above the spiral staircase.

The 15th Century clergy vestry has a two-light cinquefoil-headed window in the east wall with two small trefoiled tracery lights, whilst there is a single tall narrow lancet window in the western face of the tower.

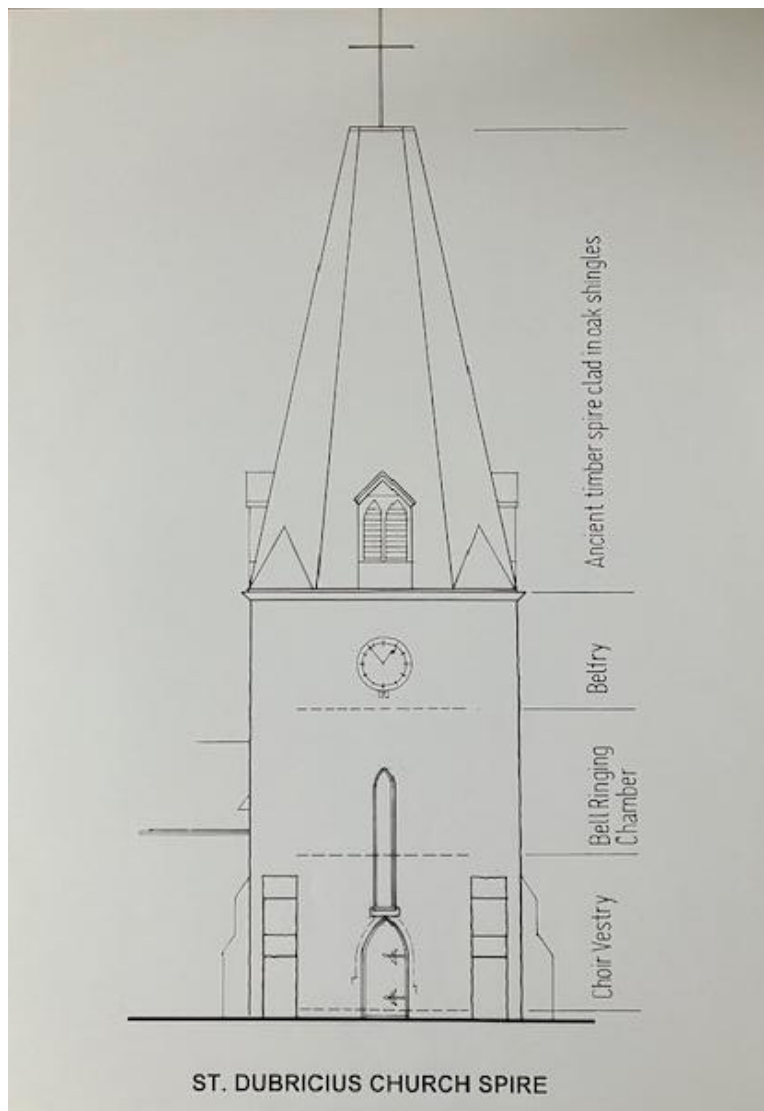
2.4 Tower

The tower is a simple massive structure of very early date, it is probably 13th Century and may have belonged or the foundations at least to the supposed much older church which existed before the reconstruction carried out during the 13th century.

The two stage 13th Century tower has stepped diagonal buttresses rising half a stage. It is low, broad and quite substantial and devoid of any architectural detail except for its short and double buttresses. The walls are approximately 4ft 9 inches thick and the tower measures 13ft. 6in square internally.

Built of local rough stone partly of the Old Red sandstone, chiefly of the Foreland beds, which were difficult to dress, and partly the New Red which is very soft, was possibly quarried from West Luccombe. Evidence of the original lime roughcast covering is still visible in particular on the south elevation of the tower. There is an ordinance survey bench mark carved into the stone on the north facing buttress. A tall lancet west window in the west wall above an oak door. There are three squint windows which are obscured by the Jubilee clock faces.

The tower has a choir vestry at ground level, ringing chamber at gallery level above, and belfry, clock, and the bells at the top.



2.5 Spire

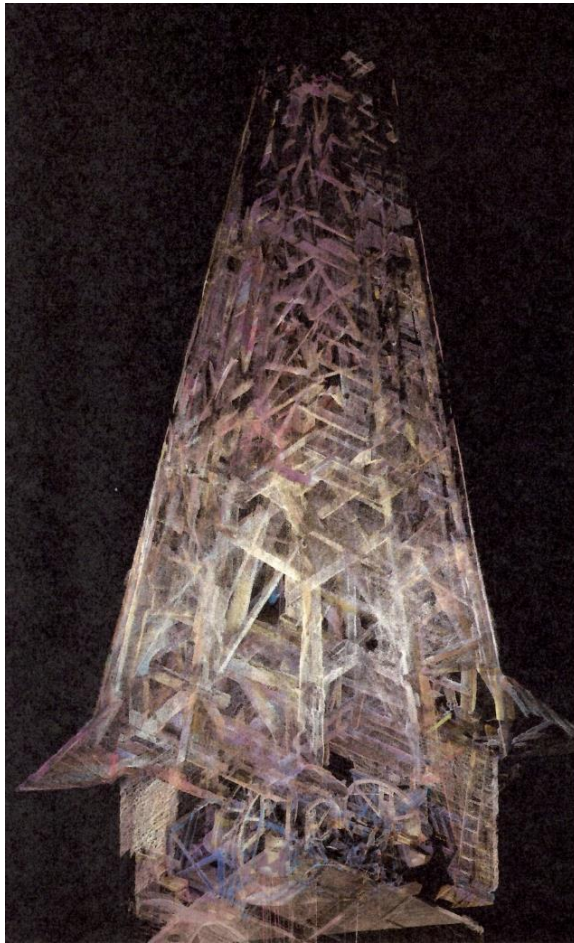
The Medieval octagonal broached spire is a rare survivor of a wooden shingled and timber structured spire in the West Country. It is supposed that it was originally higher but was damaged in the great gale of 1703 which caused so much damage throughout the country. It is now 70' high and was never rebuilt and has been maintained in its present truncated form ever since.

The sides, at about 80° with shallow broaches (sloping half pyramids adapting an octagonal spire to a square tower), are supported on stout timbers. These sit firmly upon the wall plates which extend the whole width and thickness of the tower walls on all four sides. The main supporting timbers are four large storey posts extending from the framework at wall plate level to braced and trussed framework about 25' above. From this level are further braced timbers extending up the rake of the spire. The main timbers are a mixture of ancient and 18th Century work.

The truncated apex forms a small flat top of about 1.8 metres across and is supported on pine joists with a small access hatch. It is capped with lead and supports a

wrought-iron and gilded weather vane with its standard and lead expansion roll and cravats to its four bolted feet.

There were numerous recorded works in the church wardens accounts ledgers of repairs carried out to the spire during the 18th and early 19th Century. There was considerable restoration of the spire in 1884 when it was strengthened in places and recovered with locally sourced oak shingles measuring 12" by 4", these were fixed by zinc nails. However, the shingles lasted only 50 years as the wrong type of nails had been used to fix them and they were failing.



Laser image of the internal timber structure

The spire was re-shingled again in 1933 and additional 9inch by 4inch timbers were built in to strengthen the lower supports. 23,000 shingles were used which were fixed by copper nails. Most of this shingle work remains with the exception of an area on the east elevation which was replaced in 2007 due to the failure of the lead capping of the flat roof. This allowed rainwater to run down this side of spire instead of through the internal drainage pipe which serves the lead flat roof at the apex, resulting in serious water damage to the shingles directly below. A permanent fixed aluminium ladder has been secured internally to the spire structure to provide access for maintenance to the apex.

The four Belfry sound windows are in the form of shallow gabled dormers and louvred in oak with hip stops at the corners which were recovered with cedar shingles in 1985. Below the shingles to the spire there is a 'V' shaped elm gutter lined with half round pvc guttering.

2.6 Church Roofs & Ceilings

The whole of the oak framed roof was entirely rebuilt in 1889 in the shape and lines of the ancient roof following a pattern the architect J D Sedding found in the old decayed structure. The nave and chancel are under one roof and are of slate with slight bell-cast coped verges to the east. All remaining roof slopes with the exception of the organ chamber are slate covered with glazed clay ridges.

The older Treborough slates, which are no longer available, were used in the 1889 restoration are deteriorating and some were patched with Welsh slate in 1980. Both slopes to the south aisle roof were repaired in 1996 when it was found that the battens were rotting and failing. These were covered with some of the recovered existing Delabole slates whilst the remainder were second hand Delabole slates which match in size 24 x 12 “, thickness and texture.

The servery has a low pitched lean-to slated roof extending from the Chancel eaves level to a box gutter at its northern parapet, with a black clay hip to the north side. At the east end of the north wall of the chancel, a chimney has been built which serves the boiler room. The organ chamber roof in the north transept is lead covered. The clergy vestry roof is slated with black clay ridges whilst the flat roofed storeroom to the south of the vestry has a flat asphalt roof covering with lead flashings.

2.6.1 The chancel roof

The structure was completely renewed in 1890 and is barrel vaulted in six bays with moulded ribs and bosses. It is a reproduction of the earlier structure, in strutted form, collared and tied with infilling of close-boarding between the rafters, without a Chancel Arch. The timbers are partially vaulted over the Chancel, with covered principal rafters and purlins, bossed at intersections with carved and moulded wall plate with spaced motifs.

2.6.2 Nave Roof Timbers

The nave roof structure is of A frame trusses with straight braces, forming the effect of a canted ceiling. There is boarding between the trusses sitting on a simple chamfered wall plate.

View of Interior of Church



2.6.3 The South Aisle roof

This roof has an arched braced roof with exposed timbers. Every fourth brace is moulded as are the purlins. There are carved wooden purlins at intersections of the moulded timbers. The cornice, moulded braces and bosses are probably from an earlier roof and some paint can be seen on the arched braces.

2.6.4 Lady Chapel wagon roof

This roof was also completely renewed in 1890 to conform with the original design. It is arch braced with a moulded ridge purlin and purlins, and moulded main trusses in thirteen bays, with the two eastern bays boarded as a ceiling. Some of the original timbers, mainly on the south aisle have been preserved. The wall plate is early with shields and flower ornaments, the bosses have very bold carvings.

2.6.5 Chapel of the High Cross roof

The slate covered roof to the Parvis Chamber/ Chapel of the High Cross is of simple open collared rafters of ancient timbers. The struts to the inner wall plates carry the weight of these timbers. The exposed “A” frame structure has plaster panels set between. The wall plate on either side has rotted badly in places. In the past the feet of most of the rafters had suffered death watch beetle attack in a number of places.

2.6.6 Clergy Vestry roof

The wagon roof with a single brace and three purlins. The ceiling has exposed timbers and is of simple collared rafters with carved principals and bosses, all in oak.

2.7 Chapel of the High Cross with Porch below

2.7.1 Parvis Chamber or Chapel of the High Cross

The Parvis Chamber above the porch was built during the 15th Century. It was used by Chantry priests to keep vestments and other valuables. This room has had numerous uses, as a church warden's lumber store-room during the 18th century (1700-1800). It was also used as a school room for the education of poor children during the 19th Century when it was accessed by stone steps from the churchyard. Evidence of their existence remains in the stonework of the church wall on the northeast side of the porch. When a new village school was built in the late 19th Century the Parvis chamber once more became a store room.

The Parvis chamber was restored in 1985 and converted to the Chapel of the High Cross which is dedicated to the large cross which used to be on top of the rood screen. It is accessed from inside the church by worn steps up a narrow curving stone staircase to the left of the north entrance.

The roof is of simple open collared rafters in ancient timbers, the exposed "A" frame roof structure has plaster panels set between; the walls are plastered and the floor is of deal. There are two very small North and East windows. The Chapel is accessed from the nave by new oak steps with iron hand rail and landing which were constructed in 2005.

2.7.2 North Porch

Evidence of the Late Perpendicular Period is depicted in the large North Porch with its angled buttresses. It is a 15th Century addition together with its Parvis Chamber above and measures 12ft 6inches by 10ft 2 inches. The outer doorway has a deep hollow in the midst of the mouldings characteristic of this period. The inner doorway is of the 13th Century and has a single chamfer.

The walls are pointed with a 'snake' finish which is not compatible with the medieval stone work. The sandstone paved flooring is worn with several tiles cracked to a large extent. The flat ceiling, which is the underside of the Parvis Chamber floor, is supported on quartered carved beams with bosses at the intersections.

2.8 Internal Finishes

The walls of the church interior have been plastered to the dressed stone reveals and arches. The floors to the Nave, Chancel, South Aisle & Lady Chapel have stone pavings under carpeting to the circulation routes with softwood boarded floors under pews and choir stalls whilst the floor to the choir vestry has softwood blocks.

2.9 Rood Loft

The once fine 15th Century rood screen was removed in 1769. Fragments bearing traces of colour were found during the restoration in 1890. Only the lower two steps remain of the original staircase seen in the recess in the north wall. A small window once gave light to the rood loft.

2.10 The Servery

This area which used to be a clergy vestry was built outside of the original east wall of the east end and covers the eastmost window in the original north wall. This room still retains the original window. Its carved effigies suffered greatly through weather exposure, before this room was added in the late 19th Century. The masonry to the medieval window was repaired in early 20th Century. It is entered by an oak door in the panelling of the Organ recess, separated from this chamber by a simple flush screen and a white-painted door. This area was fitted out as a servery with sinks and crockery storage cupboards in 2010 with plans drawn up by the architect R. Chambers. A short boarded passage with plastered ceilings connects the servery to the current Clergy Vestry.

2.11 Clergy Vestry

At the east end of the church is a small mediaeval vestry, it is 9ft. square which is entered by a plain depressed doorway on the south side of the altar. There is a two-light cinquefoil-headed window in the east wall with two small trefoiled tracery-lights. The vestry has a wagon roof with a single brace and three purlins. The ceiling has exposed timbers and is of simple collared rafters with carved principals and bosses, all in oak and the floors are parquet blocks. Work was carried out in 2009 by the architect Robert Chambers to convert this 15th Century building behind the sanctuary back to a clergy vestry. There are two substantial oak and pine framed doors, one to the sanctuary described as a plain depressed headed doorway and one to the store room.

2.12 Store room.

The store-room was built in 1966 by the architect W E Marsden. It is on the south east elevation of the church and built with solid masonry walls. A lavatory was installed as part of the alterations undertaken in 2010.

2.13 Organ Chamber

There is a heavy oak frontal lintel over the Organ Chamber, with the organ casing and air shafting taking up most of this space. The oak frontal casing is a memorial to Wm. Huish 1938.

2.14 Internal Features

2.14.1 The Sanctuary

2.14.1.1 Reredos and Triptych



The beautiful Reredos and Triptych which adorns the High Altar was dedicated in 1931. The Reredos is carved in wood and painted, with Triptych above.

It was designed in the Voisey style by the distinguished ecclesiastical architect Mr. W.H.R. Blacking. The finely carved wooden figures of the Reredos were made by Mowbray. They represent the early saints connected with the district;

- St Dubricius patron of Porlock,
- St.Petroc patron of Timberscombe,
- The Crucifixion,
- St.Crantoc connected with Carhampton,
- St.George patron of Dunster.

The Shields of Arms are those of the families connected with the Manor of Porlock.

The panels of the triptych were painted by Mr. Christopher Webb the celebrated stain glass artist. The subjects represented are from left to right

- Arms of Bath and Wells Diocese
- St.Brendon, remembered in Brendon
- St.Olave was patron of the chapel which was at Porlock Weir
- The resurrection of our Lord
- St. Bridget, Irish saint
- Adam Bellenden, Bishop of Aberdeen and Rector of Porlock and above the Arms of Bellenden of Kings College Aberdeen.

It commemorates Adam Bellenden Bishop of Aberdeen and Chancellor of its University who was exiled out of Scotland after the Covenantors' Assembly in 1638. It records the remarkable incumbency of Adam Bellenden who was given the living of Porlock by Charles 1 and became Rector of Porlock from 1642-1647. Little is known of his incumbency in Porlock although he had been a man of distinction in Scotland.

2.14.1.2 The Pulpit

The Pulpit was designed by E Buckle and is reached by 3 stout oak steps. It has panelled wainscoting to the north wall, with carved and open balustered Pulpit frontal and side. It has a rolled cornice with sectional perforated tracery carving to the upper portion.

2.14.1.3 The Lectern

A simple moulded reader in oak, erected as a memorial, its shaft resting on simple moulded panelling and balustrading S.W. of the chancel.

2.14.1.4 The Sanctuary Communion rail

The rail is in simple turned balustraded oak in two pieces, with a detachable rail to span the central opening. They were given in memory of the parishioners who died in World War One.

2.14.1.5 The Chancel and Priests' stalls.

These are fine examples of late Victorian/Edwardian wood carvings. The richly worked oak choir stalls made locally were installed in 1895. They have carved panel frontals and ornately worked poppy head bench heads, each with different foliage. The backs of the seats are chiefly in "linen work" whilst the clergy desks are elaborately worked. These are of high quality and therefore their contribution and significance to the Church is high, whilst the fixed oak bench pews in the nave are in a plain simple design and of low significance of early 20th Century furnishings.

2.14.2 The Lady Chapel

2.4.2.1 The Lady Chapel Reredos

The Reredos is formed by a simple oak castellated cornice just above the East window sill. This tones in colour with the back cloth and riddell curtains forming the Altar proper. Ironwork supporting the riddell curtains was made by local craftsmen and it is delicately scrolled.

2.14.2.2 The Lady Chapel Communion Rails

The rail is in three sections with wide bench-like tops, installed as a Memorial to those who died in the second World War. Regimental crests of those serving are very well positioned and proportioned, greatly dignifying this work.

2.14.2.3 Memorial Gate

A Memorial Gate given in memory of Hilda Alexander in 1951 is also of delicately scrolled wrought-iron and has been erected between the Chapel and the Chancel.

2.14.3 Stained Glass

The stained and painted windows to the Chancel, the Lady Chancel and one in the north wall are all late 19th Century. In 1901 further alterations were made by architect the J D Sedding including stained glass windows to the East end. The remaining windows are in Arts and Crafts style, these have clear leaded lights with floral designs in large panels of tinted glass. The stain glass window in the tower lancet window and one window in the south aisle are both 20th Century.

2.14.3.1 Chancel stained glass

The East window is an 1872 memorial to Sylvanus Brown, Rector from 1838 . It was commissioned by his widow and installed by 1906. It is in three panels and the inscription at the bottom of the panels reads: *“To the Glory of God and in Memory of Silvanus Brown who for Rector of this Parish te deum August 29th 1872 age 60 This window is erected in loving Remembrance”*

The main part of this window shows Christ on the cross. At his feet is a kneeling Mary Magdalen. On His right stands Mary, his mother, and on his left, St. John.

Under the main picture are three small ones. On the left is the Annunciation, with the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will bear a son. In the centre is the Nativity, and on the right the baby Jesus is held by the aged Simeon, who had recognised Him as the Messiah.

Above the main picture, Jesus is shown in glory with six saints. We can identify Catherine of Alexandria, an early martyr, who was tortured by being broken on a wheel – her symbol, and Agnes, a fourth-century Roman martyr. Her symbol is a lamb, because the Latin for “lamb”, which is “agnus”, is so like her name. The other could be St. Peter.

2.14.3.2 Lady Chapel East stained glass

19th Century memorial to Thomas Rawle, East of the Aisle above the Lady chapel altar. At the very top of this window, we see the words “The Glorious Company of the Apostles Praise Him”. This is a line from a very ancient hymn, known as the “Benedicite”, from its first word, which, in Latin, means “bless”, and which exhorts all creation to bless God.

The main part of the window shows three of the apostles, James, Peter, and John. Underneath the main picture, are three smaller ones.

On the left, we see Jesus, with James and John, and their mother.

In the centre we see Jesus with Peter and another disciple.

At the right we read these words, “If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.”

2.14.3.3 South aisle Memorial stained glass

A two light stain glass window commemorates 14 parishioners lost in World War One. It was unveiled by the Bishop of Taunton in 1922. It is simple in its subject with the left hand light representing the meeting of our Lord with Mary and Martha at Bethany. One sister is standing, the other kneeling facing Christ in attitude of homage. The right hand light Christ stands with uplifted hand. The inscription reads "Thy brothers shall rise again". The window was designed and executed by Messrs F. Drake & sons of Exeter who also supplied the brass tablet.

2.14.3.4 North Aisle Memorial stained glass

Set in the small window which used to give light to the Rood loft. Dedicated to the Phelps family with brass plaque below with the names of 11 family members. They date from Mary, wife of Richard Phelps, d 1753 to Henry Phelps, a churchwarden, 1832. Richard Phelps was an artist and portrait painter of some repute and he produced work for several churches in the area. The left panel of the stain glass window possibly shows St George flag and Jesus the lamb of God. The Right panel has an image of a pelican which is a symbol of Christ sacrificing himself for man. It was recorded as being installed by the time of the 1906 Kelly's directory.

2.14.3.5 The West Tower stained glass

This stain glass window is set in the tall lancet window in the tower above the west door. It was designed and executed by Messrs. F. Drake & sons, of the Close, Exeter. It was installed in 1910 as a memorial to the Revd Walter Hook, who did so much work restoring the church. It shows St. Dubricius, who became bishop of Llandaff and to whom the church is dedicated. The saint is depicted in full Eucharistic vestments, with above him the inscription "Llandaff". It also shows the arms of Llandaff, which have three bishop's mitres, and two crossed bishop's croziers as a symbol of caring for his flock.

Underneath is a shield bearing the arms of the Hook family and the memorial inscription: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Walter Hook, Prebendary of Wells, Rector of Porlock, 1872-1899".

2.14.4 The Harington Monument.

The monument is attributed to the memory of John, fourth Baron Harington of Aldingham and his wife Elizabeth and is associated to the manor and chantry of Porlock. It is situated under the fifth arch of the arcade between the choir stalls and the Lady Chapel. It is not in its original position, having been moved from its original position in the middle of the south aisle perhaps in 1768 when the rood screen was demolished.

The low altar-tomb has a very fine canopy of Dundry stone, with many small niches and tall columns with fleurons up the jambs and along the four-centred arch with cusped arch and tracery in the spandrels. On the tomb-chest are the recumbent Chellaston alabaster effigies of Sir John Harington and his wife Lady Elizabeth and dating from about 1474, about three years after the death of his widow. It is of good quality and was once richly coloured although both figures are defaced with inscriptions, some of which go back to 1690.

It is one of its finest of its kind although it has suffered loss of some features on its west face and the canopy damaged by re-siting it to merge with the structural masonry of the arcade arch. Despite this, the monument is regarded as one of the finest of its period in England and is therefore of high significance. There are only two others like it in England; the Sir Humphrey Stafford tomb at Bromsgrove and the Sir William Vernon tomb at Tong.

It was through the Haringtons that the Manor of Porlock passed to the family of Lady Jane Grey. In 1553 King Edward VI died. Edward was Protestant and to prevent Mary, Edward's Catholic sister succeeding, the Duke of Northumberland had Jane proclaimed Queen at the age of 16. The plot failed and Jane was arrested on the 12th February, 1554. She was tried and executed for treason. She had reigned for just 13 days. All her family's land and property was forfeit to the Crown, and to this day the Crown holds the patronage of St. Dubricius Church. This involves consultation in the appointment of rectors and is also the reason why the choir is entitled to wear red robes.

2.14.5 Tomb Recesses

There are two moulded segmental headed tomb recesses in the south wall, one contains the holy water stoop which was probably removed from the left of the main entrance since Historic England's listing in 1969.

In the other low-arched recess lies the effigy of a cross-legged Knight in the chain armour, late 13th Century. It is likely that this attitude was chosen to indicate that the persons so figured had made pilgrimages either to the East or to St James of Compostella. Originally this monument lay on the floor of the south aisle. It is traditionally said to represent Sir Simon Fitz Roges, whose family held the Manor of Porlock during that century and who died in July 1306. He is credited with the construction of the early parts of the present church building.

The recess was probably made in the 14th century (1300-1400) for some other figure, and to place the present effigy in it the sides of the bed-stone were cut away, the feet cut off and the figure of a lion against which the feet rested was removed. The lion was found during the restoration of the church between 1888 and 1891, it is now placed at the foot of the effigy. In addition to the mutilations mentioned, the top of the knight's shield with much of its lower side have been broken or cut away, probably to allow for the fitting of the manorial family pew which formerly stood near the South Door.

2.14.6 Tombs

The tomb in the Sanctuary on the north side of the high altar is a perpendicular c.1530 Easter Sepulchre or Hensley monument tomb-chest. Finely carved with quatrefoils and without effigies ornamented with shields, trefoil headed niches flanking circular panels with trefoils and carved at Dunster. It depicts principally the five sacred wounds of Christ upon a shield engraved in the centre panel of the front, and at the east end are four scourges between a reed and a spear. It has not been specified whether this tomb was used as an Easter Sepulchre. (where the crucifix from the High Altar was laid on Good Friday and 'watched' until it was restored to the Alter on Easter morning). It is thought that this tomb chest and the one in the porch are those mentioned in the will of Alice Hensley dated 1527.)

The tomb in the North Porch, is another perpendicular monument which is set against the east wall. It was formerly in the churchyard where it was nearly buried west of the porch and was moved in the late 19th Century to its current position. It is not known whether this Altar tomb was originally in the church. It is bolder in design than the one in the chancel but the features of this tomb have suffered considerably from earlier exposure and ill-treatment. It is of a much coarser stone than the tomb chest in the sanctuary and is also finely carved with quatrefoil decoration with Instruments of the Passion. It has a representation of the sacred wounds on the central panel, and a portcullis at one end and a double rose at the other.

However, it now seems almost certain that both tombs are those referred to in the Hensley will. In her will of 1527 one Alice Hensley decreed: “my executors to make one tomb over the burial place of my husband died and buried in the Church of Porloke, viz. in the chuancell there and another tomb over my burial place and that of my mother in the churchyard of the parish of Porloke”.

2.14.7 Organ

The organ is in the north transept off the chancel, the Choir has the Organ Chamber to the north with it's console on the south side. The organ was designed and built by J. E. Minns of Taunton in 1908. A major rebuild was carried out in 1963 by Hill Norman & Beard of London with a detached console placed next to the lectern. A further restoration of the organ was completed in 2000 by Michael Farleigh of Budleigh Salterton with an updating to a modern solid state electronic system. The addition of a three rank mixture stop has given brilliance to the organ which now sounds with superb clarity and precise attack in the speech of the pipes.

2.14.8 Pre-Norman ornate fragments

The oldest feature in the church is the fragment of a pre- Norman (before 1066) cross which is affixed to the west wall in the south aisle. There are two small fragments of incised carved pieces with interlaced ornament of a Saxon cross it is suggested, of the C9, almost certainly this is one of the earliest Christian relics in the whole of West Somerset.

2.14.9 Font

The late 14th Century Font is larger than the average font and is a finely proportioned piece of early Perpendicular work. It was originally sited east of the south doorway and was moved to its current position in 1890 beside the south door where it is placed on a stepped stone plinth. It has an octagonal basin, the sides of which have cusped panels inclosing plain shields. The octagonal font which was lined in lead is much decorated, however the inscriptions on some of its panelled escutcheons have long since worn away. Like many fonts of this type it must originally have been richly coloured. Its shafting of traceried panels and base have been much repaired in the past. The 1938 Memorial Font cover has carved cresting with linenfold and fleur-de-Lys devices to panels.

2.14.10 The Ancient Clock

This is a rare pre-pendulum clock thought to be c1400-50 which at present stands at the west end of the nave. It was originally in the tower. It has neither face nor hands and merely struck the hours on the tenor bell. It was in use until it was replaced in 1897 by a Victorian faced clock in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

2.14.11 Victorian Clock

The Victorian clock, which is hand wound weekly, is within the same space as the new bell frame, in the top level of the tower. The mechanism is housed in a glass box on the north elevation. The clock takes the form of a cast iron flatbed movement with hour strike, driving the three dials with an anchor escapement with pendulum action. The clock has three faces, on the north, south, and west sides respectively of the tower and the faces are fixed over small squint windows with each face being a skeletal dial five feet in diameter. A clock casing located in the northeast corner of the ringing chamber extending the extent of the tower chamber encloses the clock weights.

The clock was believed to have been made by a London clockmaker. It has the name G Brown, Minehead 1897, a local craftsman, born in Porlock who installed it in 1897. It was paid for with funds raised by public subscription to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and has recently been completely overhauled.

2.14.12 Bells

The belfry contains six bells, with two of the oldest dated 1617. The others dated 1801, 1823 and 1782 respectively bear the names of the churchwardens. There are some ornamental borders mixed with lettering of the inscriptions on the 2nd, 5th and 6th bells; with the inscription "Life is death and death is life, 1617" and on the second "I: L: I am the second bell, T.P.D.D.' 1617. The first bell was recast in 1802, the tenor bell was recast in 1824 at Cullompton and one was re-cast in 1910. Hung higher up the spire on the north-west side is the small sanctus bell.

Work was also carried out on the belfry in 1910. A new cast iron frame was made by Llewelyn and James Bristol to accommodate the six bells on one level. They are positioned lower down the tower and are supported by three massive R S J's which span the tower North to South. The original wooden bell support frame was discontinued following the new iron frames installation and it remains in situ within the base of the wooden spire immediately above the new bell frame.

The six bells were again removed for refurbishment in 2009, the first time since 1910. They were taken to a workshop in Taunton and then on to the Bell foundry in Whitechapel.

2.14.13 The south door

The south doorway is Early English (13th Century), the splendid door itself was made in 1953 and is known as the Queen's Door. It was made and installed by the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Coronation on 2nd June 1953.

2.14.14 The north door

The oak doors to the North doorway were gifted by Miss Alice Bond in 1953 and they display the artistic skill of rural craftsmen.

2.15 Utilities

2.15.1 Lighting

The main body of the church is lit entirely by LED bulbs. The porch, vestries, servery, store room, ringing chamber and other areas are lit by a mix of low energy bulbs and LED bulbs, with a couple of fluorescent tube fittings. External lighting is by two small LED floodlights and low energy or LED bulbs over doorways. No incandescent bulbs are in use.

2.15.2 Heating

The main body of the church is heated by an oil fired boiler and with two pumps to circulate the hot water. The boiler manufactured and installed in 1995 is rated 88KW (input). The boiler and pumps are located in a small basement below the servery at the north east corner of the church, with control panels and timers in the servery. One pump feeds to heating pipes in ducts below cast iron grills set in to the floor of the main part of the church. The second pump feeds four fan assisted convactor radiators. The bunded oil tank is located in the churchyard at the southern extremity.

Tubular electric heaters are fitted below the choir pews. Wall mounted fan heaters are fitted in the servery, clergy vestry, WC and choir vestry. A portable fan heater is used in the ringing chamber.

2.15.3 The crypt/boiler room

The boiler is in a crypt under the servery and is entered from the Drang footpath to the east. Access to this is via a stout framed and braced door and down a flight of bricked steps to the Chamber, which has a braced and ledged door. The chamber extends down underneath the servery. It has a shallow vaulted bricked ceiling with masonry walls and a concrete and stone floor. A drainage gulley collects surface water from the steps area and chamber when the water table is high.

2.15.4 Drainage

The gutters and rainwater pipes are of cast iron and discharge into roddable gullies. The Nave Valley Box Gutter leadwork extends in four reaches draining east to west by an outlet near the tower and in one corner of the south aisle and chancel. The Parvis roof and nave have lead valley gutters. The storm drainage appears to be connected to the main drainage system. Rainwater downpipes drain to open shoes and rainwater gullies.

2.16 Significance for mission

St. Dubricius Church is an established building within the community and a focal point within the village. It was built mainly in the 13th century and over the centuries it has been constantly in use for Sunday services and other acts of worship for the community.

Currently there are spaces within the church that are being utilised for different groups which are mainly church based. Space has been put aside for a children's area which is not only used during services but by parents and carers during the week. We believe that this area can be further adapted with minimal change to make it a more accessible and welcoming part of the church building.

The building is also used by the school for curriculum activities in addition to worship. A real strength of the church is that it is a building that is familiar to people and this can enhance worship.

Section 3

Assessment of the Impact of the Proposals on the Significance

3.1 Tower

3.1.1 The Works for the Tower

The 13th century tower on which the spire sits is of local stone and still has some external plaster in places, from what was probably a complete render coating. Whilst the scaffold is in place for access to the spire the opportunity will be taken to repoint some of the damaged tower pointing, but a wholesale repointing is not necessary or planned. Any cement mortar found will be carefully raked out and replaced with lime based mortar. The new mortar will be specified to match the original mortar type.

A few of the softer stones are rather badly weathered, but whether these would benefit from replacement will be decided when close inspection is possible from the scaffold. If needed local stone to match as closely as possible the original will be specified. There are still a few local quarries, but many have now closed.

3.1.2 The Impact for the Tower

(See section 2.4 above)

The works are considered to have little impact on the historic significance, but the appearance of the finished tower will be improved.

The remaining small areas of rendered wall will be retained.

3.2 Spire

3.2.1 The works for the Spire

The tower and spire will almost certainly be fully scaffolded to enable safe access for repairs works. (Steeplejack access has been considered, but the works would be much less efficient and very difficult to monitor and inspect). There will be a hoarding at ground level to prevent unauthorised access. The scaffold may be sheeted to provide weather protection to the workforce and to the spire internals while the shingles and underlying boarding and structure are worked on. The scaffold is expected to be designed so that the North, West, and South doors can still be used for access to and from the church.

The work to replace the oak shingles is considered “maintenance.” Although only required every 80 years or so, the shingles are considered to be a consumable item, they will have been replaced several times already. The sarking boards to which they are fitted are mostly expected to be in sufficiently good condition that they will be retained although it is known they are not all of great age as previous reports refer to their renewal. Internal examination of them has not so far identified any major damage.

The wall plate has been partially replaced, probably in 1933, or possibly in 1884, when the last two re-shinglings were done. Whether any or all of it has been replaced on previous occasions is not known. Part of it needs replacing now due to water damage.

It is assumed that the spire remains in place partly due to the attachment of the timber structure to the wall plate embedded in the top of the tower walls, but primarily remains in place due to its weight.

Note also that the bells were originally in the lower level of the spire. They were moved down one level in 1910 and are now supported on a steel frame at the upper level of the tower. It appears that substantial parts of their previous timber support frame are still in place. These may now be structurally redundant, or may contribute to the overall spire strength. Either way they are of historic value, and will be carefully preserved.

The underlying structural timbers of the spire require some replacement and repair, which will mean the removal of decayed timber and replacement with new. It is assumed that some of these timbers could be original. So far as is known, it is only timbers directly attached to the wall plate which are decayed and will need repair or replacement.

Some very substantial new timbers were added to the structure as part of previous works, probably in 1933, maybe 1884. It is intended that as part of the development phase of the project a structural engineer will be asked to assess which timbers are now load bearing, and whether the structural design is satisfactory.

3.2.2 The impact for the Spire

(see section 2.5 above)

The main significance within the spire is considered the timber structure at its heart, as it is generally assumed to include many ancient and possibly original timbers. It is hoped that during the project, samples can be taken for dendrochronological tests to determine their age, providing this can be done without damage to the whole.

Whilst the new timbers may be providing additional strength, the historic value of the older timbers is considerable. Nevertheless, some require repair to maintain the integrity of the spire, notably several that are in direct contact with the decaying wall plate. The proportion of timbers that need repair or replacement is impractical to calculate, but is probably of the order totalling a few metres length, in a spire which must have hundreds of metres of timbers of various sizes.

It is quite obvious from inspection that several of the timbers have previously been repaired, some more than once, although it is not known when. New timber pieces have been spliced in, or strengthening pieces added in parallel. Similar repair techniques are expected to be applied now by cutting away a minimum amount necessary of the decayed wood and splicing in suitable replacement timber.

There will also be some replacement of the wall plate which links the spire to the tower where decayed. The extent will not be fully known until the shingles are removed, but substantial sections are expected to need to be replaced. There is little option but to install new timber, as the wall plates are a key part of the structure and are clearly compromising it. If not replaced the spire will not be sound.

It is intended that the timber used for replacements will wherever possible be sourced from local Exmoor woodland, possibly from the wooded Hawkcombe valley which

runs from the village of Porlock up to the upper levels of Exmoor. Thus, whilst the timber will be new, it will be from the same woodland as the timber it replaces.

Once re-shingling is complete the immediate impact will be a colour change for the spire as the new shingles will be lighter in colour. They will weather to the current grey over a few years. The long term impact will be almost imperceptible. Although re-shinglings are very occasional, there are in effect maintenance of a consumable outer layer.

All the works to the surfaces of the spire and roofs will be transient. Whilst restricting the view of the church during the work, once complete the spire will be clad in brand new oak shingles, fit for another 80 – 90 years of weather. The re-shingling will preserve the architectural heritage of the building for many years to come for future generations to enjoy.

3.3 Roofs on Nave South Face, and Chapel of the High Cross

3.3.1 The Works for the Roofs

It is expected that all work on the Nave roof will be from the scaffold. The underside of the roof will not require access. Access to the Nave roof south face will be provided from the Tower/Spire scaffold. It is possible that there will also be a temporary scaffold roof covering the sections of the nave roof that are to be repaired to provide weather protection. This is still to be decided. If the temporary roof is needed there will be a scaffold structure along both north and south sides of the church to above eaves level to provide support for that temporary roof.

The roof of the Chapel of the High Cross above the porch will be scaffolded for safe access. As the internal plaster is damaged there will need to be access to the chapel ceiling from below to carry out the necessary repairs. The timbers of this roof are likely to have suffered water damage and may need repairs

The works to the Nave roof will be to remove and then replace the slates. It was previously reported that the South Isle roof battens had decayed and needed replacement when those slates were removed and replaced. It will not be known until the Nave slates are removed whether these battens will also need replacement, but replacement is budgeted. The roof originally built in the 15th was completely rebuilt to the same pattern in 1899. Therefore its significance is much less than if it had been original. The structural parts of the roofs are not expected to need any work, but there is always the possibility that removal of the slates will reveal underlying water damage, in which case repairs would be essential to maintain structural integrity.

Once any structural repairs are complete the roofs will be re-fitted with the removed slates where they are in sufficiently good condition, supplemented by either second hand or new slates of good quality from UK sources. Battens will be replaced and a new layer of felt will be fitted if needed. Insulation will be added if practical, but we have already been advised that this is notoriously difficult in medieval roofs.

As for shingles, the slates, whilst they have a longer life than shingles, they do weather and deteriorate and need replacement eventually, and are considered as maintenance.

3.3.2 The Impact for the Roofs

(see section 2.6 above)

The roofs, being of less age than the spire have less significance, and once the works are completed there will be minimal change to the roofs and hence impact on significance is judged as very small. The short term impact is the transient disruption to the view of the church while work is in progress due to the intrusion of the scaffolding.

3.4 Reredos & Triptych

3.4.1 The Works for the Reredos/Triptych

The Reredos and Triptych have been examined by a specialist in such items, who considered their condition to be reasonable and recoverable, but in need of attention to prevent irreparable future decay. Whilst from a distance there is little indication of damage beyond a general dullness, from closer inspection there are many small spots on the surfaces.

A more detailed inspection has been done during the development phase, which provides more detail on the work recommended, and its cost.

The work on the Reredos is expected to be done in situ, although this will not be confirmed until the conservator has conducted a more thorough examination of the works required. In situ working may require that the altar be moved slightly to provide a sufficient work space. Undertaking the work in situ is the preferred plan as it will enable members of the public to observe the restoration work as it is undertaken. This is expected to be of great interest to visitors, local community and the congregation members as well. It is one of the elements of the NLHF application highlighted as a means of drawing new audiences to view our heritage.



3.4.2 The works for the Harington Monument

The monument has not yet been examined in detail by specialists, but the conservator who has advised on the Reredos made a very quick assessment of the monument and suggested it would benefit from a conservation programme. It is possible that conservation work on it might be arranged, following full surveys, costings, and approvals

3.4.3 The Impact for the Reredos/Triptych & Harington Monument

(see section 2.14.1.1 above)

The visual impact of restoration is likely to be quite strong, but the historic significance will be enhanced. The Reredos cleaning would likely restore it to near its original colours. The monument would not be repainted, but most likely only cleaned by the conservator. For both items conservation would increase longevity by applying currently available techniques to slow future deterioration.

3.5 The PV Panels

3.5.1 The works for the PV Panels

Whilst works are being done to the spire and nave roof, we hope to take the opportunity to add photo voltaic panels to the roof, to reduce our carbon footprint, contribute some green energy to the grid and reduce our utility costs. The scaffold will be in place, and the roof opened up, so the incremental cost would be much less than for a standalone PV panel project. An investigation into that feasibility and an optimum size for generation and battery capacity is part of the development phase of our project.

The church has a double gable roof over its Nave and South Isle, and the south face of the Nave is the one that needs re-slating, faces the sun, and is shielded from public view almost entirely by the south aisle roof, and by trees in the churchyard and school grounds. It is plenty long enough for a long single row of PV panels towards the higher point to capture most sunlight, and since it faces almost due south it will be exposed to direct sunlight for most of the day, only being shaded by the tower in the evenings

3.5.2 The Impact for the PV Panels

A set of panels on the south face of the Nave roof would be almost unseen from ground level so the visual effect is close to zero.

The risk of any negative effect on the church roof itself is minimised by undertaking the work while the roof is being opened up for restoration anyway. A full assessment can be made of its structural strength and attachment points selected full knowledge of their underlying supports.

The environmental gain however would be quite substantial as it would reduce our dependence on fossil fuel for our own use and the excess power generated would be available for export to the grid, reducing someone else's carbon footprint too.

3.6 The Glass Doors

Following further consultation with Exmoor National Park's Conservation Officer and Historic England, it has been decided to withdraw the glass doors from this faculty. The PCC will consider alternative options and, if required, submit a new faculty in due course.

~~3.6.1 The works for the Glass Doors~~

~~The doors are proposed to achieve two objectives by addressing two concerns. When viewed from the main A39 which passes directly in front of the church, the porch is dark, uninviting and off-putting for potential visitors looking at the building from the gateway. It is impractical to leave the main oak doors open normally as the prevailing wind drives straight up the church path to those doors and it would carry all types of debris into the church. Also, two or three hours of heating can be blown away in two or three seconds with open doors. Our vision is that with glass doors in place near the outer end of the porch the inner oak doors will normally be left open during the day, with the glass doors providing the barrier to wind, rain, and weather~~

~~in general. This will transform the view up the main path, and attract many more people to visit, both as tourists and as congregation. Additionally, the existing doors are quite draughty even when closed and the addition of closefitting glass doors will reduce our heating cost significantly, with the consequent benefit to our carbon footprint.~~

~~3.6.2 The Impact for the Glass Doors~~

~~(see section 2.7.2 above)~~

~~The installation process will temporarily affect access through the porch while the work is undertaken. Alternative access will be possible through the west door and then through the tower, or via the south door. West door access is level into the tower, then there is one step down when entering the church from the tower and is accessible with limited mobility. Temporary ramps are available and can be used if necessary for wheelchair access by this route. The south door access has several fairly steep steps, and is not recommended for those of limited mobility, but is suitable for the more able bodied.~~

~~Clearly any new doors will need to be attached to the porch walls. The design brief will specify that this is to be done in ways that will minimise the need for any removal or disruption of existing material. The porch and chapel above are of notable significance due to age and architectural detail. The proposed addition of glass doors will not remove or hide any of the historic features, hence the impact of the proposed change is considered small.~~

~~The present proposal is shown in drawing 1398/028~~

3.7 Motion Detectors for Church Internal Lights

3.7.1 The works for the Motion Detectors

The addition of motion detectors to the church internal lights is to enhance visitor experience. The more they see the more they will learn of the heritage and history, and the more likely they are to return. When unlit the internals are very dim when the weather is poor. If we leave the lights on all day the cost becomes significant. The present compromise is to leave one set of lights on throughout the day when the weather is grey and dim. However, this leaves much of the remainder of the interior still looking dark, maybe more so in contrast to the lit section, and it still impacts our electricity bill. The proposal is to add detectors so that either all the lights are switched on when movement is detected anywhere within the body of the church, or switch individual sections as people move around. The former is probably the least distracting.

The work to install motion detectors to the church internal lights will require access to the electrical supply and the two sets of switches, just inside the door to the servery, and in the tower, both at ground level. Access to the walls at high level will be required to install the motion detectors. It will be possible to attach these with suitable brackets to the exposed timber wall plate on the top of the wall, under the eaves. No attachment to the wall will be required. Where additional cabling is required this will follow existing cable routes and is not expected to be visible.

3.7.2 The Impact for the Motion Detectors

The works are not expected to impact the significance. No damage will be caused to the church structure, and the installation will be virtually invisible having the detectors at high level in the church. However, we hope that their installation will enable the significance of our church to be better appreciated by many more people.

3.8 The Churchyard

3.8.1 The Works for the Churchyard

The churchyard is a closed one, with the last burials having been in the late 19th century.

The aspects of the works to consider for the churchyard significance.

- There will be a large scaffold in place “spoiling the view”
- There are likely to be one or two small temporary buildings for the contractor to use as storage and offices. The temporary buildings site will need to be carefully chosen, bearing in mind the need to lift them into place, and avoid gravestones, paths and general access routes. There is an area with no visible headstones at the south side, towards the west corner which it is hoped will prove suitable for this purpose. Lifting into place may require it to be done from the school car park.
- Gravestones will need protection. The main contractor for the works will be required to arrange for the installation of protection for the gravestones in the vicinity of the scaffold before scaffolding or any other site works commence.
- Public access to the churchyard will inevitably be restricted for safety reasons while the scaffold is being constructed, and again when dismantled. There may be short periods during the works as well when safety will dictate the public be excluded. We will endeavour to arrange that the scaffold design will be such that the path which runs on the west side of the tower will still be usable by bridging across it, but passing through the scaffold base. If this is not practical a temporary path may need to be laid across the grass so that the public can still pass without having to walk on the grass. Once the scaffold is in place, in general, we expect that access should be able to continue. The path is not a designated public footpath.
- There is still an occasional burial of ashes, permitted by faculty under certain conditions. The area used is sufficiently far from the church structure that access is unlikely to be impeded.
- Public access to some of the gravestones near the church and tower will be impractical whilst the scaffold is in place as the scaffold will be boarded to prevent unauthorised access. There are a number of visitors who come to see the gravestones. Some are just browsing, but some are looking specifically for family connections. For the duration of the works such activities will be disrupted.

3.8.2 The Impact for the Churchyard

The scaffold itself will intrude into the churchyard space, and change the view of the church entirely.

The temporary buildings will further downgrade the short-term attractiveness of the area for the public seeking a peaceful area in which to sit.

The churchyard will be less appealing for public use while the works are ongoing.

Some gravestones within the footprint of the scaffold will be inaccessible to the public whilst the scaffold is in place.

3.9 Overall Conclusion

The impact on significance once the works are completed will be minimal. There are several aspects that will be improved (a much smarter spire, sound and weather proof roofs, refreshed and protected Reredos and Triptych, and possibly Harington monument, improved internal lighting, more welcoming entrance, and reduced environmental impact) and none that will be detrimental.

SECTION 4 :

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