**St Michael & All Angels Church, Cornwood, Ivbridge, Devon PL21 9QJ**

**Statement of Need**

**Repair of Wall Memorial to Benjamin Burrell**

**February 2024**

**1. The Church and Parish**

The parish of Cornwood is on the Southern edge of Dartmoor, within the national park and is about 12 miles from the city of Plymouth. It still has a rural feel, being surrounded by farms and the moors with a population of about 800.

The church has 39 participants with an average attendance of 28. There is a service every Sunday and we have an active church community who reach out to villagers by running large fund raising events. These include a 10K and Fun Run, a May Fair in the village square and a large flower festival. We also have concerts in church.

We very close links with our village school which uses the church regularly.

We average 3 weddings per year and have around 10 funerals and a similar number of baptisms. Church festivals usually attract nearly 100 people with nearly 300 attending the Christingle service.

**2. What we need**

A necessary repair to the Benjamin Burrell wall Memorial to ensure it is preserved for future generations and prevent any further deterioration of this ancient and memorial dedicated to an important person in the history of our parish .Died in 1715. Benjamin Burrell was a Captain in the army of King Charles 1st on the wall memorial. In the guide to Heraldry in Cornwood Church the author, Mike Brown states he was an ensign in Colonel Cholmley’s Regiment, one of the 2 volunteer reigiments that were continually maintained by communities in East Devon.

The family arms surmounting the tablet are emblazoned thus- Argent six bars azure in a chief of the first 3 leopardfaces or(BURRELL)

The wall fixing are rusting and causing the memorial to crack. This poses a risk of pieces falling and hitting members of the congregation if we allow further deterioration.

**3. The Proposals**

This memorial is moving away from the wall because the iron fixings are rusting. In the 1960s the wall was coated with bitumen and re-plastered. The dampness collects behind the memorials and causes damage. The monument needs to be conserved and stabilised. The inscription needs cleaning and made more legible. Repair fractured stone.

The PCC have decided to not have the paint removed at the moment in order to save money.



**4. Justification**

**Extract from QI Report 2023 of Michila Wilks of Inicio Architects.**

Most plaques and memorials are in good condition commensurate with the age. The Bellmaine plaque has recently been repaired and refixed. The Burrell plaque has a large crack to the head, commensurate with a failing fixing behind, and this appears to have worsened since the last inspection. Repair needs summary: Repair the head and fixing of the Burell plaque A NOTE: It is good practice to include a full and through periodic inspection by a specialist of all plaques and monuments to ensure they are safe and that fixings are sound. This can be included in a regular maintenance plan. Some churches have had a record made of their fixtures and fittings by the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) and this would be recommended