



THE FRIENDS OF LONG MELFORD CHURCH BUILDING TRUST

Charity Number: 1069008

December 2018

From the Rector



I should like, on behalf of the Wardens and PCC, to thank the Friends of Long Melford Church Building Trust for their fantastic support again this year.

While the restoration of the Sir William Cordell tomb in the Sanctuary stands out as one of their most significant and important contributions, the Friends have paid for the Architect's inspection and report on the work to be done on the Clerestories and they have committed themselves to funding yet another trial on Window 22.

With a bit of luck, this work – by the Canterbury Glass Studio – will be done early in the New Year and so enable us to regain our momentum on the essential programme of conservation work on our famous collection of medieval glass.

*The Revd. Matthew Lawson
Rector*

Dear Friends

In his foreword, Matthew has kindly highlighted the concerns we have about the state of the clerestories and medieval glass but as we need, also, to focus on the state of the church roof, I have invited David Hamand, former Church Warden and one of two PCC representatives on our Board of Trustees, to give us an update on all three.

Holy Trinity Nave Roof

About 70 years ago one third of the lead on the nave roof was replaced. The remaining two thirds of the roof lead is coming to the end of its useful life. Rain continues to leak through particularly when the wind is in one direction. The extreme high temperatures of the recent summer have caused excessive stress to the lead. Several minor patching repairs have been carried out over the last 15 years and consideration should now be given to a permanent resolution to prevent ingress of rainwater, ie re-leading the two thirds of the roof that is now failing.



The Clerestory

As part of the five yearly inspection of the whole of the church, our architect was requested to carry out a survey of the masonry around the upper windows of the nave. The findings gave the PCC some cause for concern in so far as small amounts of masonry had been found in the area of the choir and elsewhere in the church. Our architect spent one whole day testing the stonework and removed any masonry that was loose and likely to fall down. The inspection confirmed that several places will urgently need to be repaired. This will involve the erection of scaffolding to enable the stone mason to affect the repairs in safety. The church has been there for over 500 years so it should come as no surprise that we should be needing to carry out this work.





15c. Stained Glass

The most recent trial in 2012/2013 was an Environmental Survey and Monitoring of the protective Glazing and the Building Environment. It lasted one year and proved conclusively that there was serious damage being inflicted to the glass. Photographs taken in 1971 were compared with some taken in 2012 and clearly showed that the time has come to slow down the rate of damage caused by Microbial Growth on the glass. Any work on the fabric of a Grade 1 listed building requires that a Faculty Application must be submitted to and granted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Other bodies who needed to be consulted include the local planning authority, Historic England and Council for the care of Churches. The afore mentioned have agreed that the recent trial has proved positively that there is a need to protect the glass. They now need to agree that a slight alteration be made to the framing which, if approved, will permit the installation of Environmental Protective Glazing.

As Matthew has said, the Friends have undertaken to assist the PCC with the cost of a final trial to assess the external visual impact from the north elevation in the churchyard. This will be carried out by Canterbury Cathedral Glass Studios who have been involved with the care of the glass since 2005. The chosen window will be removed in February 2019 and have the necessary work done hopefully to satisfy the above mentioned bodies. It will be replaced around Easter time together with a high quality glass window pane installed on the outside when the air temperatures are high enough to allow the non-hydraulic mortar to set.

Should anyone wish to learn more about this extremely rare example of surviving 15c. stained glass, you would be most welcome to get in touch with David Hamand on 01787 313 041 or d.hamand@btinternet.com

Clopton Family Association

We were delighted to hear of the very obvious success of the CFA Reunion in Arkansas in July. A full and most interesting programme so well reported in the CFA Newsletter. Our grateful thanks to Joyce Chiles Hines for publishing the outline of our suggested programme for the 2020 CFA Reunion in and around Long Melford from the 29th June to the 5th July and the Post Reunion Tour of Hampshire from the 5th to the 10th July. All enquiries about the first week to Richard Michette on richard.michette@gmail.com and the second week (the Post Reunion Tour) to David Hamand on d.hamand@btinternet.com

Membership

Our grateful thanks to all who kindly support our work in assisting the PCC with the maintenance of the fabric of Holy Trinity Church. From the reports on the roof, the clerestories and the stained glass, you will instinctively know that we are facing huge costs so please continue to support us as generously as possible. Donations can be made by sending cheques in favour of The Friends of Long Melford Church Building Trust c/o Richard Michette, 7 Clopton Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9LJ or by BACS to the Friends of Long Melford Church Building Trust at NatWest Bank Account Number: 52605655 / Sort Code: 60-21-03. For guidance on Gift Aid, please visit the Friends' page on the church website www.longmelfordchurch.com

In closing, I would like to extend a special word of thanks to the members of our Board of Trustees who all work as volunteers. Richard Michette as Hon. Secretary, Vincent Chandler as Hon. Treasurer, David Hamand, William Hyde Parker, Carole Michette, Bernie Moulton and John Watts.

Last but by no means least our Rector Matthew Lawson who, in spite of his busy schedule, continues to attend our meetings and help wherever possible.

With every good wish for the New Year

Patrick Kohler
Chairman