

WELLINGTON St John the Fisher



Report on the Quinquennial Survey

WELLINGTON St John the Fisher

Diocese of Clifton
Deaconry of Taunton
Parish of Taunton
Last Inspection: Not Known



St John the Fisher was converted into a church and presbytery in the 1930s from almshouses in Tudor Gothic style dating from 1833. Materials are red sandstone random rubble with stone dressings and a slate roof. The plan of the original range is oblong, with a projecting central bay.

Report on the Quinquennial Survey for 2022

Survey by Jonathan Saunders RIBA AABC
12th July 2022
71C St Thomas St, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2UY

Report on the Quinquennial Survey for 2022

PART ONE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report on the quinquennial survey of St John the Fisher church was carried out on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 on the instructions of Father Tom Dubois
- 1.2 I have therefore made a thorough general survey of the church, and those parts of the churchyard for which the parish is responsible. My inspection was visual, and such as could readily be made from ground level, ladders, and any accessible roofs, galleries, stagings. No part of the fabric was opened up for inspection, and the report does not therefore include any part of the building which was covered up, unexposed or inaccessible; and no guarantee can therefore be given of the absence of rot or beetle or of any other defect.
- 1.3 In describing the church, this report assumes it to be traditionally orientated.
- 1.4 The weather at the time of the inspection was dry and bright after a period of dry weather.

DESIGNATIONS

- 1.5 The church is not listed.

2. Limitations of Survey

- 2.1 No ladders were raised to any part of the church.
- 2.2 No underground drains were tested.
- 2.3 The survey is limited to the church itself

3. Recommendations for Further Surveys

- 3.1 This survey recommends that a roofer is asked to raise ladders to each of the valley gutters and to report on the condition of these areas of roof.

4. Recent Structural History

- 4.1 There have been no significant capital works at the church but routine maintenance appears to be up to date.

5. Summary of Structural Condition

- 5.1 The church is in good fair condition as a result of careful attention to routine matters.
- 5.2 Roofs seem in fair condition though south slopes cannot be inspected from ground level so an inspection of these areas by a roofer is recommended.

- 5.3 External sandstone walls of the original building are suffering from inappropriate cement pointing and, in the case of the west wall, cement render. Remedial work is highly desirable to minimise long-term damage.
- 5.4 Stone window and door surrounds have been painted in modern material which will cause long-term harm. Stripping is desirable though not as urgent as repointing. Metal window frames deserve redecoration.
- 5.5 Rainwater goods are plastic which are unlikely to be best value in the long term but are presently in good order.
- 5.6 Internally the church is in good overall condition other than cushioning to kneelers which deserve renewal.
- 5.7 The church grounds are functional but neatly kept. Railings to the street front and the plinth wall require redecoration within the quinquennium.

6. Description and Historical Summary

- 6.1 The former almshouses building is a seven-bay range in Tudor Gothic style on the north side of Mantle Street. Dating from 1833 it was converted into a church and presbytery in the 1930s. The western end was reportedly the chapel; this was converted to the church. The eastern end contains the presbytery and a parish room.
- 6.2 The materials are red sandstone random rubble with stone dressings and a slate roof. The plan of the original range is oblong, with a projecting central bay.
- 6.3 To the rear (north) are various flat-roofed single-storey extensions. The street elevation has gabled cross roofs over the individual bays.
- 6.4 The three western bays have tall two-centred windows with Y-tracery and mullions and transoms. The central bay is framed by diagonal buttresses. The church entrance in this bay has a four-centred arch with hoodmould and corner shafts. On either side are two four-centred windows of two lights each, with hoodmoulds and diamond leaded glass. A similar, larger window is above. Just under the apex of the central gable is a small stone cross on a corbel (a former gable cross).
- 6.5 While the pierced parapet has been removed, two finials on the gable's kneelers survive. The eastern three bays of two storeys have oblong windows with mullions and transoms under labels. Above the ground floor windows are relieving arches of rubble. At the east and west ends of the street elevation are diagonal buttresses.
- 6.6 The door in the central bay leads into the church, while a side entrance at the east return elevation leads to the presbytery. Inside the church entrance is a 1960s internal lobby. The church interior has a suspended ceiling. The modern sanctuary furnishings are of timber. To the liturgical southeast is a flat-roofed side chapel with a two-light Y-tracery window.

PART TWO

Condition of Structure

7. Roofs and High Level Features

- 7.1 There is a single roof over the entire range of church and former presbytery at the east end.
- 7.2 This north slope comprises a single slope divided by a small gable opposing the entrance front. This slope appears to be artificial slates with traditional lead detailing. The condition of the slates on the north side of the range appear to be sound with no signs of movement or slipped slates.
- 7.3 On the south, road, side of the church the roof is divided into a series of gables; the principal gable over the entrance with three smaller gables to each side. It is difficult to be certain, but I think these slopes are natural slate.
- 7.4 It is very difficult to see the slates on the south side of the building, except in limited areas by oblique view. I could see no obvious defects in these limited parts, but this should not necessarily be representative of the whole roof and I recommend that a roofer is asked to access each valley and to report on the condition before the winter.
- 7.5 The lead ridge to the main roof and to each of the 'wings' appears to be sound.
- 7.6 Abutment flashings, other than on the north slope, cannot be seen and these should be included in the roofer's inspection.
- 7.7 There is a reasonably good view of parapet copings from various angles and, as far as I could see, these all appear to be sound as do the finials at the bottom of the main gable over the entrance.
- 7.8 The single storey extensions to the rear of the church are all covered in traditional, mineral felt. This is notoriously difficult to assess but, from oblique views from the walkway in the garden, I cannot see any obvious defects and, more significantly, there is no sign of any damp internally. Flashings to these areas are rather crudely pointed in cement mortar, but seem sound.

8. External Walls

- 8.1 Walls to the C19 building are red sandstone with limestone dressings.
- 8.2 Sandstone has been extensively repointed in cement in multiple stages over the years. This is now causing sacrificial damage to stone, most noticeable adjacent to a window arch (Fig. 2) but in many areas generally, figs 1 & 2.
- 8.3 Repointing of the south wall, including the SE buttress, is recommended within 2 years.
- 8.4 By way of observation, the south wall and east gable of the former presbytery has also been repointed in cement at various stages and, consequentially, is failing at different rates. Repointing here is also desirable. (fig.4)

- 8.5 The central bay is also repointed in cement but here it is sound and removal would be unduly destructive.
- 8.6 Door and window surrounds have been painted in gloss paint that is retaining moisture and causing damage to underlying stone, figs. 5&6. As yet this is limited but removal is desirable for long term protection of stone with replacement in a breathable paint.
- 8.7 There is an open joint in one of the plinth stones, just to the left of the door which should, ideally, be repointed. This would best be left until work to the main elevations is addressed.
- 8.8 There is a patch near the north end of the west wall, fig. 7, which appears to be building-in of a window. A crack which is structural movement extends nearly to the gable but not evident on the inside which has been dry lined. The cement mortar itself will be doing harm to this elevation and I suspect this was installed, as was the dry lining, because of persistent damp problems.
- 8.9 This approach rarely solves the problem and a much better solution would be to repoint, or possibly render in lime. However, as there is no detrimental effect on the internal decorations because it is dry-lined, this is not an urgent priority.
- 8.10 The single storey extensions to the rear of the church are all finished in pebbledash cement-based render, as would be typical of the period and is all in reasonable decorative order.

I noticed a small crack extending from the boiler room roof, but this is not significant.

9. Rainwater Disposal System

- 9.1 The gutters and downpipes to all areas of the church are white plastic. This is not a durable material and I feel that cast iron is better long term value as well as being more appropriate for the building, but the capital costs are not insignificant and is not justified at present.
- 9.2 On the south side of the church the rainwater pipes are square plastic with standard plastic hoppers. The screw fixings are all rusting and there are accumulations of mould around sockets, but they appear to be functioning properly with no obvious defects.
- 9.3 On the church room/flat wing, rainwater pipes have recently been replaced in white plastic and are consequentially sound.
- 9.4 To the north of the church gutters on the main roof and to the more recent extensions are shaped plastic and here, too, I could see no signs of current defects.
- 9.5 To the south of the church, gutters discharge into a narrow concrete channel, set behind a dwarf brick wall. Fig. 8 In front of the church this channel is being overgrown by ferns and buddleia and, although this is attractive, these are invasive as is the sycamore, which has also self-seeded. This area should be cleared, including the ivy, which is beginning to climb the walls as noted below.

- 9.6 Because this gutter is overgrown I could not see any outlet and this should be investigated and cleaned when plants are removed.
- 9.7 In front of the church room, the new gutters have been configured to connect directly into a hopper and this is a much more positive way of discharging than simply into the concrete channel.
- 9.8 The west end of the church, at the south-west corner, the rainwater pipe discharges into a hopper but I could not see any outlet and I would recommend that this is investigated.
- 9.9 On the north side of the church the rainwater pipes discharge by shoes over gulleys. These all appeared clear at the time of my inspection. I cannot judge, however, how freely the ground sections are running.

10. Windows and Doors

- 10.1 Windows to the church are leaded lights in diamond quarries all within metal frames. Each of the six-light windows has two opening hoppers and these appear to be operating smoothly. The steel surrounds to these leaded lights are showing signs of rust through the paint and redecoration is now required. Consideration might be given to using a darker colour which would be less susceptible to rust grinning through. Fig. 9
- 10.2 The centre bay also has diamond quarries, but there they are glazed directly to the stone; the bottom two windows are built into, what appears to be, an iron subframe for the three-light upper window.
- 10.3 There is one broken quarry in the bottom right pane of the central window.
- 10.4 The two small casements in the lower windows are binding and, although overhaul is desirable, consideration might be given to either replacing the glazing with a fixed light or painting-in.
- 10.5 Windows to the rectory comprise 'Crittall' type frames, all glazed in plain glass. I have not checked every window but I am sure that some will be binding and need overhaul. All need redecoration and some re-puttying. The two windows in the east gable are set in simple stone surrounds. As elsewhere, these are Crittall windows with simple glazing and in need of redecoration and some re-puttying.
- 10.6 The window to the south aisle is also diamond set, leaded light quarries in a stone surround with steel sub-frame. All sound.
- 10.7 Vestry windows are of a similar style with opening fanlights. As elsewhere, redecoration is desirable.
- 10.8 Windows to the single storey extension, now part of the apartment, are mostly uPVC with one free light steel window at the east end.
- 10.9 Doors to the rear extension are all modern, painted flush doors in fair condition, though that to the sacristy is in need of redecoration.

10.10 The main doors to the church are a pair of fine, panelled hardwood doors in good condition.

11. Church Grounds

11.1 To the south of the church and the rectory there are narrow gardens which are neatly laid and planted and well maintained.

11.2 These areas are enclosed by low metal railings of no great age, sitting on a low wall with stone copings over rubble. There is some damage from rusting, particularly the corner post, where the end of the coping has fallen away on both sides of the entrance. Fig 10 & 11. Decoration is desirable.

11.3 Railings themselves are in need of thorough preparation and redecoration.

11.4 There is some further displacement of copings immediately to the east of the entrance caused by rust. These deserve repointing but I don't resetting is justified at the present.

11.5 To the north of the church the grounds comprise a narrow wall pathway at floor level with a raised section of concrete slabs and gravel, with fall arrest railings. All is in fair condition, but some weeding is desirable for cosmetic reasons. There is a door at the west end of this area which separates a small area of garden off the north aisle.

11.6 This door is in poor condition and replacement is likely to be desirable within a couple of years. Repair is unlikely to be good value.

INTERIOR

12. Roof Structures and Ceilings

- 12.1 The ceiling of the church is a modern, suspended ceiling probably dating from the mid-20th Century. This is not attractive and reopening the roof to what is likely to be roof trusses (subject of course to investigation) is desirable and would greatly improve the character of the interior.
- 12.2 The suspended ceilings themselves appear to be in fair condition; they are grey in tone and I think this is their original colour, but may be ageing. I cannot judge the condition of the overlying roof structure.
- 12.3 The ceiling of the north aisle is plasterboard in fair condition for its age; there is some cracking and some negation of probably old water ingress along the line of the structural opening. Redecoration is desirable and I understand this is planned for the whole of the interior.
- 12.4 The ceiling of the sacristy is in similar condition with a single crack along plasterboard joints across the middle of the room.

13. Walls

- 13.1 Internal walls are all painted and plastered and in fair overall condition. There is some cracking in the north wall, but I do not think this is serious and will almost certainly disappear with new decoration. The paint surface generally is dirty and I know that redecoration of the whole interior is planned.
- 13.2 The west wall behind the sanctuary is dry lined and deduce that this is a modern intervention to address longstanding water penetration from the exposed west gable, as part of a solution which included external rendering in cement.
- 13.3 Although not part of this survey there is plaster damage at the base of the south wall of the parish room. I suspect this is a long-term issue for which the retaining wall outside was installed but which has not been successful. Clearance as described above may improve this but additional action may be required.

14. Floors

- 14.1 Floors are parquet floors, carpeted in the central aisle, with brass trim to each side. The floor is marked with stiletto heel damage in several areas and I know that sanding and finishing is planned, but this will probably not remove all of these.
- 14.2 The sanctuary steps are close carpeted and I cannot assess the underlying condition. There is a ventilation grille in the step and at the back and against the north wall which is a good sign but, nevertheless, I think it would be prudent, and a simple measure, to take up an area of flooring when the carpeting is remade just to check the underlying condition of the floor.
- 14.3 The same carpet extends into the north aisle which, here, is a solid construction.

- 14.4 The vestry has a similar solid floor construction and is also close carpeted. Here there are signs of wear and discolouration but these are cosmetic.
- 14.5 The floor of the entrance porch is small lino tiles which are all sound. These may contain asbestos but this will be identified in the Asbestos Management Report.

15. Fittings and Furniture

- 15.1 Pews are very simple benches with drop-down kneelers. The covering to the kneelers, which appears to be a vinyl type material, is extensively cracked through age and the underlying foam is clearly disintegrating. Replacement is desirable.
- 15.2 The altar is a simple and distinguished piece in plywood and as far as I could tell it is structurally sound; it would be surprising if it were not.
- 15.3 There is a reader's desk of a fairly modern construction which is all sound.
- 15.4 The sanctuary furniture is a mixture of styles but all sound.
- 15.5 Vestry furniture is of similar plywood construction and clearly contemporary with the extension in the mid-20th Century. There is a lot of veneer on the drawers of the vestment chest which looks very unsightly, generally the cupboards are structurally sound though tired.
- 15.6 There is a mid-20th Century entrance lobby comprising a simple painted screen with hardwood detailing. All structurally sound.

16. Electrical Installation

- 16.1 The electrical installation was inspected in October 2021 and I understand all is in order.

17. Heating Installation

- 17.1 Heating is gas fired boiler serving radiators. I understand all is in order with servicing up to date.

18. Access for All

Physical Access

- 18.1 There is no dedicated parking for disabled users outside the church but I imagine that provision could be made on an ad-hoc basis with cones if required.
- 18.2 There is level access from the pavement into the nave up to the step at the chancel and into the north aisle. There is space at the rear of the church for wheelchairs.

Sight

- 18.3 The church us reasonable light during daylight but I imagine artificial lighting may not be adequate on dull days or evenings.

19. Bats

19.1 I could detect no evidence of bats using the church and none was reported.

20. Asbestos

20.1 The parish have commissioned an Asbestos Management survey in May this year.

20.2 The report has identified a number of items that require management and two that require action as follows:

- Further investigation of electrical switchgear in the foyer VERY LOW RISK
- Encapsulation of asbestos residues on boiler house walls. MEDIUM RISK

PART THREE Recommendations in Order of Priority

NOTE: the budget costs are for each item as briefly described, without specification or detailed investigation and are to give a broad indication only of likely costs. Costs exclude contractors' preliminaries, high level scaffolding, professional fees and VAT.

The following cost bands 1 to 6 are as our typical reports. We have split some of the categories into a and b as we feel this may be more helpful to parishes in planning work:

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1a | £0 - £500 | 2b | £5,000 - £10,000 | 5a | £50,000 - £100,000 |
| 1b | £500 - £2,000 | 3 | £10,000 - £30,000 | 5b | £100,000 - £250,000 |
| 2a | £2,000 - £5,000 | 4 | £30,000 - £50,000 | 6 | £250,000 |

| 21. | Items for Immediate Attention | Ref. | £ |
|------------|---|------------|----|
| 21.1 | Ask roofers to inspect south roof slopes and parapet gutters including cleaning out any debris. | 7.4, 5 | 1a |
| 21.2 | Clean out ground gutters on the south side. Ensure gullies are running free. This issue may be contributing to damp in the base of the wall internally but more considered action may well be required if this is not sufficient. | 9.5, 6 & 8 | 1a |
| 21.3 | Inspect rainwater goods periodically during heavy rain for blockages, leaks etc. | 9.9 | - |
| 22. | Items for Attention within Eighteen Months | | |
| 22.1 | Redecorate surrounds to doors and windows (but see 24.1 below) | 8.5 | 2a |
| 22.2 | Include repairs to stone and repoint adjacent plinth | 8.6, 7 | 1b |
| 22.3 | Repoint the south wall including the SW buttress. Specification and mortar selection is critical to the success of the work. | 8.3 | 3 |
| 22.4 | Although outside the scope of this report, consideration might be given to repointing the south wall and west gable of the former presbytery, which are in similar condition, for consistency. | 8.4 | 3 |
| 22.5 | Strip existing and re-render the west gable, incorporating ties across structural cracking. | 8.8, 9 | 3 |
| 22.6 | Redecorate window ironwork | 10.1 | 2b |
| 22.7 | Redecorate the sacristy door | 10.9 | 1a |
| 23. | Items for Attention within the Quinquennium | | |
| 23.1 | Replace the garden gate outside the north aisle. | 11.6 | 1a |
| 23.2 | Redecorate churchyard railings | 11.3 | 1b |
| 23.3 | Repair copings to boundary railings | 11.4 | 1b |
| 24. | Desirable Improvements | | |
| 24.1 | Removal of paint from window surround, notably the entrance bay but ideally all, as modern paint is doing long term damage. | 8.6 | 2b |
| 24.2 | Replace cushioning on pew kneelers | 15.1 | 1b |



Fig 1
The south wall and south west buttress showing damage to stone from cement pointing.



Fig. 2
Detail of the south wall showing preferential damage to stone caused by hard cement mortar.



Fig 3
Much of the south wall has cement pointing in various places.



Fig 4
South east buttress of the former presbytery showing walls in generally similar condition to the church.



Figs 5 and 6
Minor damage to stone caused by inappropriate paint.



Fig 7

The built-up window in the west gable, probably in concrete block. There is a structural crack that should be monitored. The cement render will be causing long-term harm to underlying stone and will not be resolving the evident damp problem.

Fig 8

Ground gutters to the south wall should be cleared out.



Fig 9

Metal casements and outer frames of windows require overhaul and redecoration.



Figs 10 and 11

Railings to the front elevation require redecoration and repair to copings.

APPENDIX I: NOTES ON THIS REPORT

NOTE MANY OF THE REFERENCES ARE FOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND RESOURCES AND SOME TERMINOLOGY WILL NOT BE APPLICABLE AT THIS CHURCH

- This is a summary report; it is not a specification for the execution of the work and must not be used as such.
- Caroe & Partners will be pleased to advise the PCC on implementing the recommendations and will if so requested prepare a specification, seek tenders and oversee the repairs.
- The PCC is advised to seek ongoing advice from a professional adviser on problems with the building and Caroe & Partners will be pleased to provide this.
- The PCC is strongly advised to enter into a contract with a local builder for the cleaning out of gutters and downpipes at least twice a year.
- Contact should be made with the insurance company to ensure that cover is adequate.
- The repairs recommended in the report will (with the exception of some minor maintenance items) be subject to the Faculty Jurisdiction. Guidance on whether particular work is subject to faculty can be obtained from the DAC Office.
- When carrying out repairs and a Faculty is not required, work on A & B lists which are minor matters or require an Archdeacon's permission, should always be recorded in the church log book.
- **Sustainable buildings and 2030 Zero Carbon challenge**
Church of England Guidance on addressing Net Carbon Zero targets may be found at the following links and sources.
<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/open-sustainable> including the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon and <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint>
Complementary guidance is available from Ecclesiastical Architects & Surveyors Association on project work https://www.easa.org.uk/images/Sustainability/projects_sustainability_BPN_April2021.pdf
SPAB have technical guidance on energy efficiency and insulation for traditional buildings including places of worship but building-specific advice should always be sought before any 'improvements' are implemented.
- **Fire Safety Advice**
From 1 October 2006 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 came in to force. It applies to places of worship and requires a Responsible Person to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment. See <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/looking-after-your-church/health-safety-security/fire-precautions> for further information.
Dry Powder fire extinguishers should not be kept in the church due to the damage they can cause. See guidance from Ecclesiastical Insurance for more information
<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/ChurchMatters/Churchguidance/Fireguidance/Drypowderextinguishers/index.aspx>
- **Electrical Installation**
Any electrical installation should be tested at least every five years in accordance with the recommendations of the Church Buildings Council. The inspection and testing should be carried out in accordance with IEE Regulations, Guidance Note No. 3, and an inspection certificate obtained in every case. The certificate should be kept with the church log book.
- **Heating Installation**
A proper examination and test should be made of the heating system by a qualified engineer annually before the heating season begins, and the report kept with the Church Log Book.

- **Lightning Protection**

Any lightning conductor should be tested at least every five years in accordance with the current British Standard by a competent engineer. The record of the test results and conditions should be kept with the Church Log Book.

- **Asbestos**

A suitable and sufficient assessment should be made as to whether asbestos is or is liable to be present in the premises. Further details on making an assessment are available on

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/looking-after-your-church/health-safety-security/asbestos>

The assessment has not been covered by this report and it is the duty of the PCC to ensure that this has been, or is carried out.

- **Equality Act**

The PCC should ensure that they have understood their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. Further details and guidance are available at

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/making-changes-to-your-building/detailed-advice/disabled-access>

- **Health and Safety**

Overall responsibility for the health and safety of the church and churchyard lies with the Incumbent and PCC. This report may identify areas of risk as part of the inspection but this does not equate to a thorough and complete risk assessment by the PCC of the building and churchyard.

Expert advice on working at height should be obtained from the church's insurers. There have been recent cases of serious accidents involving falls from vertical ladders in churches.

- **CDM**

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015), which concern health and safety during construction work, place obligations for health and safety on everyone commissioning building work.

Additional information can be found in the booklet 'A short guide for clients on the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015', available on the HSE website.

- **Headstones**

Should be checked by hand to ensure that they are secure. An advisory publication on managing the safety of burial grounds has been published by the Ministry of Justice. See

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/burials-and-coroners/safety-burial-grounds.pdf> to download the document.

- **Bats and other protected species**

The PCC should be aware of its responsibilities where protected species are present in a church. Guidance can be found at:

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint/ways-to-take-action/wildlife>

- **Sustainable buildings**

A quinquennial inspection is a good opportunity for a PCC to reflect on the sustainability of the building and its use. This may include adapting the building to allow greater community use, considering how to increase resilience in the face of predicted changes to the climate, as well as increasing energy efficiency and considering other environmental issues. Further guidance is available from:

<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/open-sustainable> <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint>

APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL TERMS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Aisle: | Part of a church alongside the nave or choir divided from it by an arcade. |
| Apse: | A polygonal or semi-circular plan to the sanctuary. |
| Arcade: | A series of arches and supporting columns. |
| Arris: | Sharp edge produced from the meeting of two edges |
| Ashlar: | Masonry of squared blocks with dressed faces and laid in horizontal courses |
| Aumbry: | Wall cupboard for sacred vessels. |
| Barge board: | Timber boarding on the gable end of the roof. |
| Barrel vault: | Internal shape of a simple semicircular shaped roof |
| Batter: | Deliberate inclination of a wall face. |
| Battlement: | A parapet with alternate raised portions (merlons) and spaces (embrasures). Also called crenellation. |
| Belfry: | The chamber, or stage of a tower in which the bells are hung. |
| Bellcote: | Housing for bells on a roof or gable. |
| Bell fleche: | Slender spire usually of wood containing bell(s) |
| Bell louvres: | Horizontal slats in the window type openings within a bell chamber |
| Bench: | Open seat, sometimes with a carved bench end. |
| Boss: | An ornamental carving at the intersection of ribs in a ceiling or vault. |
| Brace: | A subsidiary timber providing stiffness to a frame. |
| Broaches: | Sloping half pyramids adapting an octagonal spire to a square tower |
| Buttress: | Projecting masonry or brickwork built against a wall for additional strength. |
| Capital: | The head of a column. |
| Cementitious: | Made of or containing cement. |
| Chamfer: | The surface made when a square edge is cut away at an angle. |
| Chancel: | The part of the east end of the church containing the altar and reserved for the clergy and choir. |
| Choir: | The part of the church, usually within the chancel, where divine service is sung. |
| Ciborium: | A receptacle used to hold the Eucharist. 2. A canopy over the altar. |
| Cinquefoil: | A leaf shaped curve of 5 parts within an arch, window head etc. |
| Clerestory: | Windows located above the arcade. |
| Communion rail: | Low rail around an altar. |
| Coping: | A capping or covering, usually of masonry, to the top of a wall. |
| Corbel: | A projecting block of stone or timber, usually supporting a beam. |
| Cornice: | A projecting moulding along the top of a wall. |
| Credence: | A shelf or table beside the piscina for the sacramental elements. |
| Crenellation: | See battlement. |
| Crossing: | Central space at the junction of nave, chancel and transepts. |
| Cruciform: | In the form of a cross. |
| Cusps: | Projecting points between foils in gothic tracery. |
| Dado: | The lower part of an interior wall, sometimes panelled. |
| Dressings: | Worked stones, with smooth or moulded finish, used round angles or openings in masonry. |
| Drip: | A projecting stone etc from which water drips clear of the face of a building. |
| Dripstone: | See hood mould. |
| Easter sepulchre: | A decorated recess in the north wall of a chancel used in celebration of the Easter liturgy. |
| Eaves: | Overhanging edge of a roof. |
| Elevation: | Face of a building. |
| Embrasure: | See battlement. |
| Fascia: | Horizontal section usually at the junction of a wall and the lower edge of the roof. |
| Ferramenta: | Metal framing to which window glazing is fixed. |
| Finial: | Ornament at the top of a gable, pinnacle etc. |
| Flashing: | A strip of metal used to seal junctions of roofs with adjacent construction. |
| Flaunching: | Mortar shaped to shed water. |
| Frontal: | Covering for the front of an altar. |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Gable: | Upper, usually triangular, part of a wall at the end of a pitched roof. |
| Gargoyle: | Projecting rainwater spout, sometimes decorated. |
| Haunching: | A sloping fillet of mortar. |
| Hip: | The external angle formed by the intersection of two roof slopes. |
| Hood mould: | Projecting moulding above a door or window opening. |
| Hopper: | A box collecting water at the top of a rainwater pipe. 2. An inward opening ventilator in a window. |
| Jamb: | The side of a doorway, window or arch. |
| Joist: | Horizontal timber supporting a floor, ceiling or flat roof. |
| Kneeler: | Block of stone at the foot of a gable slope supporting the coping stones. |
| Label | A projecting moulding above a window or door opening. |
| Lancet: | A tall narrow single light window, usually with a pointed head. |
| Leading: | Strips of lead between individual pieces of glass in a leaded window. |
| Ledger: | Floor slab monument. |
| Light: | A single window opening or compartment of a window between mullions. |
| Lintel: | A beam over an opening. |
| Louvres: | Angled boards or slates in a belfry opening. |
| Lychgate: | Roofed gateway at a churchyard entrance, providing resting place for a coffin. |
| Merlon: | See battlement. |
| Moulding: | The shaping of a continuous strip of wood or masonry. |
| Mullion: | A vertical member, in wood or stone, dividing a window or other opening into individual lights. |
| Nave: | The body of a church, west of the chancel or crossing. |
| Newel: | Central post to a staircase. |
| Nosing: | Projecting edge of the tread of a stair. |
| Obelisk: | A free standing tapering stone pillar of square or rectangular cross section. |
| Ogee: | A double curve with convex and concave section, occurring in arches, window and door heads and rainwater gutters. |
| Parapet: | A low wall, usually concealing a roof or gutter. |
| Parclose: | A screen enclosing a chapel. |
| Pew: | Enclosed fixed wooden seat. |
| Pier: | A solid masonry support, pillar of square section or masonry between doors and windows. |
| Pilaster: | A shallow pier or square section column projecting from the face of a wall. |
| Pinnacle: | A small pointed turret on a tower, buttress etc. |
| Piscina: | A stone basin with a drain, in a niche near the altar for washing the sacred vessels. |
| Pointing: | Exposed mortar in joints in masonry and brickwork. |
| Purlin: | A horizontal roof timber, usually supporting rafters and spanning between walls and / or trusses. |
| Quarry: | A small diamond shaped or rectangular piece of glass in a leaded window. |
| Quatrefoil: | A leaf shaped curve of 4 parts within an arch, window head etc. |
| Quoins: | Dressed stones at the corners of a building. |
| Rafter: | Sloping roof timbers supporting laths or battens to the roof coverings. |
| Relieving arch: | A rough arch positioned in a wall above a door or window opening to relieve it of structural loading. |
| Rendering: | A coating of mortar on a wall face. |
| Reredos: | A decorated wall or screen behind an altar. |
| Reveal: | The side of a door or window opening or recess. |
| Rib: | A curved member or projecting moulding on the underside of a vault or ceiling. |
| Ridge roll: | Lead dressed capping to the top of a pitched roof |
| Ringing chamber: | The chamber or stage of a tower where the bell ringers stand. |
| Rood: | A crucifix over the entrance to the chancel, usually supported on a rood screen. |
| Rood stair: | A staircase formerly providing access to the rood loft on top of the rood screen. |
| Rubble: | Rough unsquared stones used for walling. |
| Saddle bar: | Horizontal metal bar to which window glazing is attached. |
| Sanctuary: | Area around the main altar. |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sarking: | Boards or felt over which roof slating or tiling is laid. |
| Sedilia: | Stone seats for clergy in south wall of chancel. |
| Shake: | A natural cleft or fissure (in timber). |
| Soaker: | Strip of metal interleaved with roofing slates or tiles at junctions with walls etc. |
| Soffit: | Underside of a building element |
| Spandrel: | Triangular area in an arch window or doorway |
| Squint: | An oblique opening through a wall giving a view of the altar. |
| Stoup: | Stone basin for holy water. |
| Swan neck: | A curved section of rainwater pipe connecting to the gutter. |
| Tingle: | A metal clip used to secure a roofing slate or tile. |
| Tomb chest: | Stone monument in the form of a chest. |
| Tracery: | Ornamental stonework in the upper part of a window, screen etc. |
| Transept: | Arm of a cruciform church plan projecting at right angles to the nave. |
| Transom: | Horizontal bar of wood or stone in a window, panel etc. |
| Tread: | Horizontal surface of a step. |
| Trefoil: | A leaf shaped curve of 3 parts within an arch, window head etc. |
| Truss: | Timber framing, spanning between walls, usually part of a roof structure. |
| Turret: | Small tower attached to a building. |
| Two-centred: | A pointed arch shape formed from the intersection of two curves. |
| Valley: | The internal angle formed by the intersection of two roof slopes. |
| Verge: | Junction at the edge of a roof and the wall below |
| Vice: | Small turning stair within the masonry of a wall or tower. |
| Voussoir: | Wedge-shaped stone forming part of an arch. |
| Wagon roof: | A roof structure of closely spaced rafters and arch braces with the internal appearance of the canvas cover to a wagon. |
| Wallplate: | A horizontal timber on the top of a wall, to which a roof structure is fixed. |