20/6/82

Repairs to South Transept walls of Church

1981

Wall

The Architect's report in June 1981 was disturbing. He spoke of a possible rebuild of S.T. end wall, but suggested a few holes to probe the wall and foundations to gain information as to its condition.

Roof

The P.C.C. had already decided to postpone further roof repair work on the North nave and North Transept, and instead to remove the tabling cover stones and rebed to prevent further water ingress from the top. In view of the Architect's opinion it was thought not wise to do this if a bigger job was inevitable below.

Repairs

On 8th Feb. 1982. Brian Pulman dug out two stones internally above the curved roof timbers but found no weakness at that point. Present Churchwardens. Miss M.P. Barnard. J. Gage. Mr W Blackmore. Mr B. Pulman. (Standing Com.) It was then found that the outside N.E. corner had obviously moved outwards and was in real danger of collapse, and it was decided

Dyer

to call in the Architect, Mr Dyer.

On Friday 12th Feb. I dug two small trenches at right angles to the South face and found that the foundation stonework was up to three feet beyond the wall face. I also opened the rain water pipeline which took the chancel downpipe as well

Drain

as the corner downpipe towards the path drain arch. This was in 4" land drain.

On the following day I erected two struts against the N.E. corner stones.

Dyer

On 17th Feb. Mr Dyer visited the Church and advised removing as much of the top apex stonework as necessary, and both corners to ground level with as much stonework on either side as would seem to be necessary at further inspections.

Drains

On 5th April I was able to remove old land drain and lay new plastic drain pipe from both downspouts on and into 6" land drain just below N.E. corner of S. Transept.

On 14th May scaffolding was delivered by Key Scaffolding Ltd, and erected the next day around S.T. end wall by the firm. 18th Later in the afternoon the apex cross and sloping table stones were taken down, each marked in order.

Coins

In the evening Arthur Sage was looking at the work, and under a small piece of plate beneath the apex cross found what appeared to be two coins, the smaller one round, 1⅛ inch diameter, the larger with a tangent broken off 1¼" diameter.

Pulman Thorne

Brian Pulman and David Thorne who were to undertake the repair work on the walls, were helped at times by other volunteers.

On 19th May both corners were taken down and the stones marked with numbers. More of the east face was removed because it was very weak and crumbling in the centre. All face stones were sorted and heaped seperately.

The Architect called in the afternoon and advised removing more of the east face.

20th May. More scaffold erected towards corner buttress adjoining the chancel wall, and supporting pipework to hold the wall plate above. More of the outside face of this east wall removed, revealing the clear straight lines of the plaster sides of an earlier window in this wall, confirming what the stones on the inside behind the organ had suggested when the plaster was removed in 1963. In the bottom left of this wall adjacent to the end north wall, facing stones were uncovered which might mean an earlier doorway, but as the right side tapered off at the top towards the end wall this is doubtful. But why build facing stones outwards which were then to be roughly in the middle of a wider wall? A measured drawing of the window sides and this stone faced area is in church repairs file.

Window Organ

See III 43

Doorway see Vol I P 336

See Photos

At the base of the north facing wall at ground level clearing revealed the mouths of two 4" drains which apparently were underneath the inside floors.

See III 67 Drains

21st May. The Architect again visited and advised the demolishing of most of the corner buttress which was obviously in a bad way and penetrated by water over a long period of time. He also recommended the purchase of stainless steel rod to act as a tie between old masonry and new work. Stones were sorted and unneeded rubble bagged and hauled away by trailer.

Stainless steel rod was collected from near Bristol on 26th May and the exposed centre of the east wall was well washed down with a pressure washer borrowed from Mr Ralph Wright.

Rebuild Rebuilding of the outside face of this east wall was started on 27th May and completed by 6th June.

The West corner was rebuilt, and after taking down most of the apex above the South window this too was rebuilt for most of its full depth as well as the inside face. A few obvious bad patches were taken out and rebuilt, and by Sunday 20th June all coping stones were in place, with new 4 lb lead underneath them to seal the wall from water above.

The top of the buttress coping stones in the corner of the east face and chancel had also been bedded on lead.

Windos Around the south window a strip of poor masonry was removed and rebuilt about 9 inches wide from the base on the west side up that side around the apex and down to the shoulder of the curve on the east side. The straight section on the east appeared to be in good order.

Mortar mix As recommended by Mr ~~Dyer~~, the mortar mix used for building was of 1 part cement, 1 part lime to 6 parts sand; and for the surface pointing of 1 part cement 2 parts lime to 9 parts sand.

On 23rd June the apex cross was again replaced with a packet beneath it containing

Coins — coins of the realm in present day use, one each of 50P, new 1982 20P, 10P, 5P, Bronze 2P. 1P. ½P

Packet under Apex Cross — Also inside the packet was written —

On 18th May 1982, two coins were found under this cross when removed for repair work. At the time of writing these have not been identified

Later pronounced by museum to be George II P.T.

These are the coins now in circulation in 1982 when on June 23rd this cross was replaced. The 20P is a new issue, a £1 coin is due to be issued in 1983.

Rev N. Wall. Priest in Charge.

Churchwardens — Miss M.P. Barnard, John Sage } Churchwardens

Mr Brian Pulman, Mr David Thorne } local builders.

See Luffitt Church records by John Sage.

Names — These were present. — Rev N Wall, Miss M P Barnard, John Sage, Brian Pulman, David Thorne, Mark Lee A.J. Crabb. A Hardwick. H.L. Haynes. Fred Sage.

Heating pipes — Endeavouring to remove the small floor slab in the south aisle immediately under the window, the T piece joint at the point where the internal heating system piping passes through the wall terminating in a plug which can be removed if it is necessary to drain the system; a leak was made prising up the slab and because of this it was decided to drain all water out.

On 21st June this end pipe was cleared of stonework around it through the wall and trying to unscrew it, it twisted off and was found to be rusted very thin.

The stub-end was unscrewed at the T inside and found to be very rusty. Had this rusty pipe in fact been leaking for a very long time? We shall probably never know for sure. It was then easy to

Floor slabs

trig the heating pipes off the floor slabs and all the smaller ones were taken up, for the full length of the aisle except the last one adjacent to the nave aisle. Several inches of foxmoor sand was removed and a trench dug for that exposed length and

Memorial floor stones

underneath the huge 7'6" memorial slab which was about 5" thick. 3 inch

Drain

clay land drain pipes were laid along the trench turning a right angle with 4" glaze pipe and continuing with 3" clay towards the west and the existing 4" drain found to exist under the seated area opposite the organ. Small stones were laid over this piped part of the aisle and the floor slabs relaid on some sand. This aisle work was done during the week 5th to 9th July. The 4" drain existing under

Drains under floors

the floor of the seated area appeared to be only 9 ft. draining rods could be pushed no further. A similar drain to the east running under the organ floor was found to extend to 53 ft with rods. In each drain mouth 2 further 4" pipe were built in to the outside face below ground level and a trench dug and packed with loose stones to act as seepage to the rain water drain at the east corner alongside the main south end wall.

Following the main stone building and the replacing of the apex cross the whole of the south wall was picked out, much of it very hard cement pointing, and all new work on west and east faces repointed, a very labourious task completed by the 9th July. Our architect made his sixth and final inspection on Wednesday 7th July and expressed his satisfaction with the work done.

Coins

A report from the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter told us that the two coins found under the cross were a 1 penny and a ½ penny of George II's reign (1727–1760) but were too deteriorated to date accurately and because of their condition of no value.

1727-1760

Sometime during the work detailed above Peter Kostynski, a Ukrainian then living at Bishop's Cottage, brought to me a small stone which he had picked up locally about 3 ins by 1½ by 1 inch thick which had a rough cross in a whiter substance across its face set at a slight angle.

Stone with cross

This stone was placed in the mortar on the south facing wall of the south transept near the bottom south west corner, about 2 ft up from ground level and about 2 ft in from the corner stones.

OS Bench mark

The ordnance survey bench mark stone at the corner was replaced approximately as it was before, but survey men in 1983 declared it could not now be accepted.

8/

March 1983.

Flint Axe Head

Chert.

On Wednesday 29th April 1970 we received a telephone call from Mr Rowe a journalist at Honiton, asking for details of an ancient flint axe head found in Luppitt Churchyard. Mr Arthur Read, monumental mason, later explained that a kerbstone had been put around the grave of Mr Ewins of Newhouse and that it had been necessary to dig back into the base of the steep bank near the pathway. Spreading surplus material under the bushes he spotted this flint and having seen similar during excavations at Hembury fort recognised its significance. I was able to collect this from him on May 1st.

It was taken to the Royal Albert Museum at Exeter for identification and the following letter received

1970

19th May 1970

Dear Mr Page

The piece of stone which you left for identification is certainly a worked flake of chert, of the type known as "Acheulian", from the Palaeolithic about 300,000 to 100,000 years ago

It is of no monetary value but is of a certain scientific interest, and we would be glad to add it to our collections if you would be prepared to let us have it.

Yours sincerely

(Miss) Susan M Pearce

Curator of Archaeology & Local History

My reply to this —

Dear Miss Pearce 14/6/70

Thank you for your letter and the information it contained about the flint found in Luppitt churchyard recently; I was able to pass this to the Luppitt Parochial Church Council during the past week.

It was the wish of the meeting that this should be preserved in the small glass case museum which we have in the Church.

I wondered whether any one with archaeological knowledge would wish to make any further investigation at the site where this was found

Yours sincerely
John Sage

It was returned to me with this letter

Dear Mr Sage 17th June 1970

I return the implement to you with this letter. I have made a record of the site where it was found, and I think this is all that can be done at this stage.

Yours sincerely
(Miss) Susan M Pearce

A 'P.W.N.' newspaper cutting informed me that Mr Du Pontet of Hedgend Barton was the local secretary of The Devonshire Association and I wrote to him

Dear Sir 21/6/70

Recently Mr Real of Honiton discovered in Luppitt churchyard a piece of flint which he thought to be a shear head. I took this to the Royal Albert memorial museum and Miss Pearce says of it 'a worked flake of chert of the type known as 'Acheulian' from the Palaeolithic

about 300,000 to 100,000 years ago "that it is of certain scientific interest.

I thought that perhaps the Devonshire Association would be interested to know of this find, and I wondered whether further investigation of the site by someone with knowledge might reveal anything further.

Yours sincerely
John Sage

Replies.

Dear Mr Sage 23rd June 1970

Thank you for your letter of 21st June about the worked flake of chert from Luffitt Churchyard.

I shall be seeing some more knowledgeable members of the Association on Thursday, when I will ask them about it. I will write to you again later.

26th June 1970

Further to my letter of 23rd June, I have now sent your letter about the worked flake of chert found in Luffitt Churchyard to Mr J Barber of Plymouth Museum, who is the Association's Recorder of Archaeology and Early History. I have asked Mr Barber to write direct to you about it.

Yours sincerely
J Du Pontet

From the Recorder (Archaeology & Early History)
38 Connaught Avenue
Mutley Plymouth
13th August 1970

Dear Sir

I have today received a letter from Mr Du Pontet, in which he tells me that a letter from you, about a worked flake of