

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHANCEL CEILING REPAIR PROJECT

In recent years, small pieces of plaster have fallen from the ceiling of the chancel of St John's church which is made of lathe and plaster panels fixed between the rafters. Following a fall in September 2019 from near the west end of the chancel, the ceiling was inspected for soundness in November 2019 by our parish Architect using a mobile scaffold.

A number of panels were found where the plaster appeared to be "live", held in place by friction and with cracks or small holes indicating detachment from the lathes. At several places, small sections of plaster had detached and fallen onto the top of the wall plate. At one of these areas the lathes were found to be so wide that the gaps between were too small for plaster to key properly and at another, two rows of lathes were missing. The chancel ceiling was also found to have had various repairs in the past.



The nave ceiling was also inspected and it was found that all the panels had modern plasterboard fixed between the rafters and therefore was therefore it was considered to be sound requiring no further investigation.

During the lockdown, further small pieces of plaster have fallen, so the PCC decided that a long-term solution was required which would remove the risk of panels of plaster falling to the floor.

The project will secure the lathe and plaster panels as well as possible from below and then fix an inner skin of plasterboard panels between each rafter, as was done in the nave. The new panels will be painted and the whole area cleaned of cobwebs and dust.

A preliminary estimate of the cost of this work including scaffolding will be approximately £25,000 excluding VAT which should be reclaimable from the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

Please support this project by making a donation using the online giving system. Alternatively you could send a cheque or cash to the PCC of St John & St Luke, c/o Clay Hill Vicarage, 92 Browning Road, Enfield, EN2 0HG. If you are a UK tax payer, your donation could be gift aided which will enable the PCC to recover an additional 25p for every £1 donated. All donations of any size will be greatly appreciated.