

St Mary the Virgin Church Great Brickhill



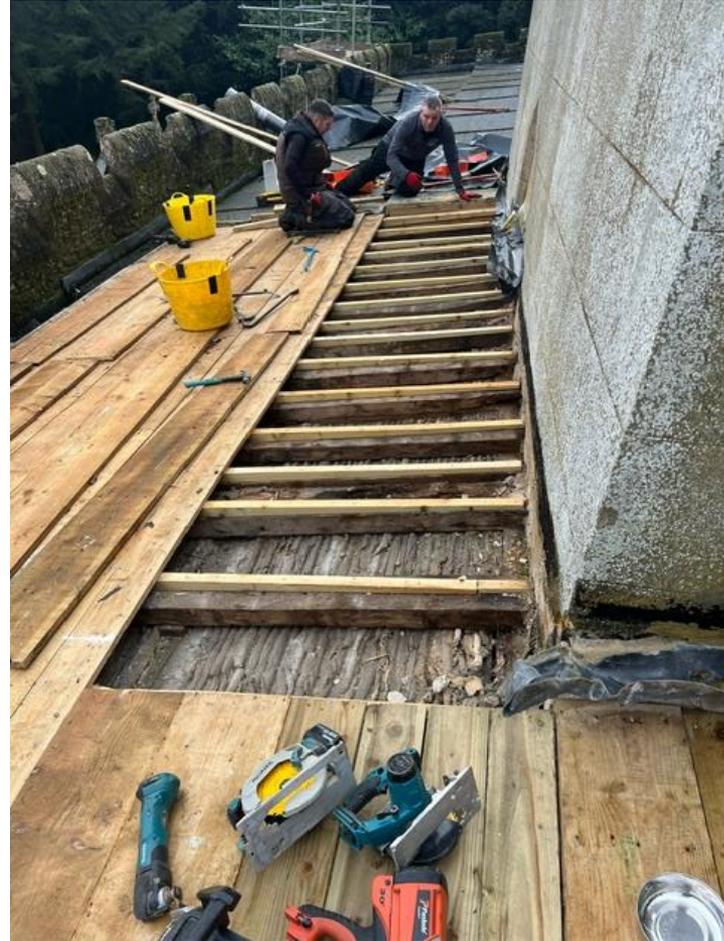
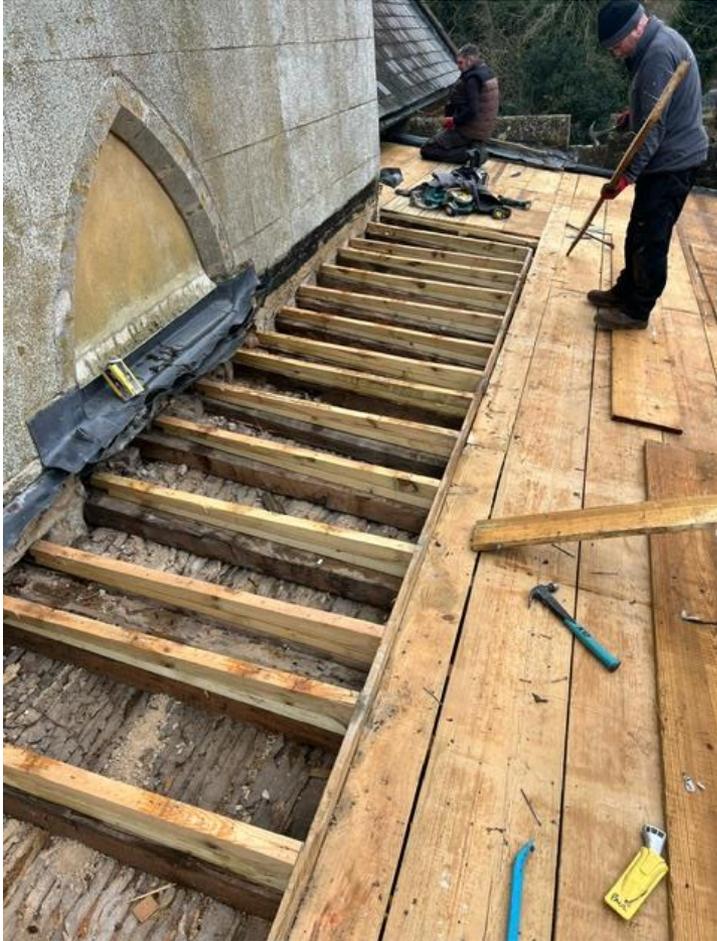
January to June 2024

It has been an exceptionally busy first half of the year at St Mary's with lots going on amid major roof works, and with the Rector on a three-month sabbatical

THE RE-ROOFING PROJECT

Following a total restoration of both the north and south aisle roofs in 2008, all the lead was stolen in 2018. The temporary covering of felt was failing and water came into the church every time it rained. The work to replace the felt with terne-coated steel commenced on 12th February

The work on the roof – south aisle



More damage had been caused on the north aisle



Terne coated steel in place



Internal work required – ceiling & walls



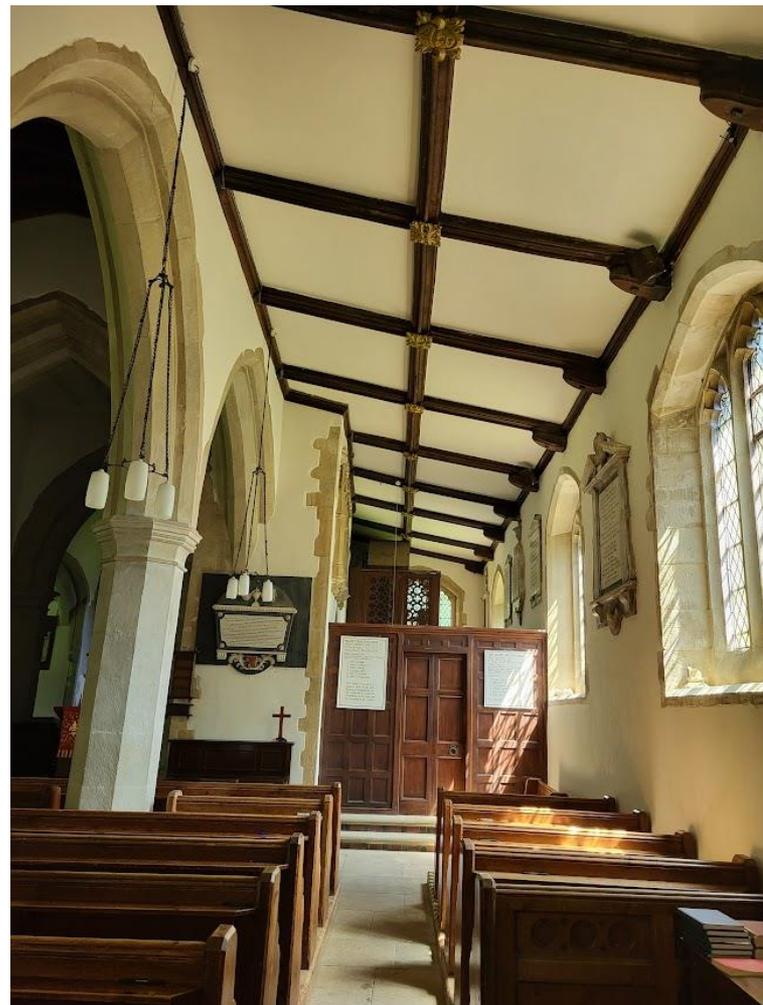
Additional rafter repairs required on two ceiling panels



**For a few weeks scaffolding was erected
on both aisles**



The work finished - completion certificate 22nd May



GRANTS FOR THE ROOF:

Successful grant applications in 2023 from:

Benefact Trust

Garfield Weston Foundation

Bucks Historic Churches Trust

NCT Wolfson Foundation

NCT Headley Trust

Francis Coales

Archdeacon's Fund

Plus,

GRANT AWARDED FROM:-

National Churches Trust “Last Chance Churches”, a special £500,000 match-funding appeal open until March 2024. St Mary’s was chosen as one of 18 churches across the country to be a recipient from this fund.

The award of £30,850 has enabled us to complete the roof work in one go, rather than having to do it in stages.

Unfortunately, the church had to be closed while the work was taking place but despite the dust and disruption, all services continued as normal, thanks to a lot of hard work cleaning and tidying

Palm Sunday Procession and Service



The procession from The Old Red Lion to the church following the bagpipes and the “donkey”

The procession halts to sing a song



The procession approaches the church for a dramatized reading of the Passion gospel



Archdeacon Guy came to take a service and witnessed the full extent of the work



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Snowdrop Walks

Plant Fayre

Brickstock

Open Gardens

The Snowdrop Walks, 4th & 11th February



There was good weather on both days. A record amount was raised, an amazing total of £3033.

The Teas at the Snowdrop Walks (great use of the new facilities)



The Snowdrop Walks

A tough choice, ... which cake to have?!



THE PLANT FAYRE, SUNDAY 14th APRIL



..... 438 visitors and £3168 raised



OTHER FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Teas at two village events:

- Brickstock music festival**
- Open Gardens**

A great opportunity for us to show a church presence within the village

**AND WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO THE
SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR WITH THE
RECTOR RETURNING FROM HIS
SABBATICAL AND NOT HAVING TO PUT
BUCKETS OUT IN THE CHURCH
EVERY TIME IT RAINS!**