



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.

*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 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.



