

The conservation and repair of the Calvary Cross **Will you support us?**

St John the Baptist,
Holland Road

A power point presentation showing the Calvary Cross, and the work needed to make it safe and conserve it for the future.

Contracting Stonemason: Daniel Burbidge
Wells Cathedral Masons

What is the cross and where is it?

- The cross, showing Christ crucified, is outside St John's, to the north of the main door.
- It is a substantial piece of stone carving and a major feature of the streetscape of Holland Road.
- It is a memorial to the second vicar of St John's, rather than being a war-memorial as so many similar crosses are.

The calvary can here
be seen in situ just to
the north of the main
door of St John's.



Why do we need to conserve and repair the statue?

- During lockdown the statue has become an important focus for many, as a tangible place to express their faith. It is now very common for offerings of flowers to be placed beneath the cross. Some people, in addition, touch the statue during their prayers.
- The statue itself has eroded severely due, partly due to air pollution.
- Parts of the statue are held together with chicken wire and we are in danger of losing the integrity of the carving.

Photographs showing the current condition

The Calvary



Showing an area of loss including the left hand completely missing



What work are we proposing?

- Phase One:
- Construct tower scaffolding around the Calvary and commence cleaning, using a hand held steam cleaner and conservation sponges. Possible use of poultices for specific areas if the steam cleaning is ineffective. Possible use (after spot testing) of the Doff Stone cleaning system if the smaller steam cleaner is ineffective.
- Survey the cleaned Calvary to reassess the damage and decide which areas need mortar repairs.
- Recommended areas for mortar repairs and consolidation are the feet and possibly the crown of thorns if it is deemed stable enough after cleaning. If the crown of thorns is too damaged then it will need to have a carved stone replacement.

Phase 2 of the conservation

- Produce silicone moulds of the damaged arms and possibly the thorn of crowns. The plaster casts taken from these silicone moulds will form the base of the model for the new carving. This method is employed to maintain a high level of accuracy when it comes to jointing the new stone to the original, as well as keeping the model in proportion with the original figure.
- Produce the model of the arms using the larger wooden version of the Calvary inside the church as a reference for the position of the hands.
- This procedure will be repeated for the crown of thorns if needed.
- Once the models are finished, Portland stone blocks will be order to the correct size.
- Using a pointing machine the models will be copy carved in the Portland stone.

Phase 3

- Once the carving is completed the damaged stone can be cut away and the new stone carvings can be installed.
- Small amounts of in situ trimming in will be needed around the joint between the new stone and the original stone.
- Finally the joints will be pointed

Other works

- If funds allow, we would like to clean, conserve and where necessary re-cut the lettering of the inscription at the foot of the calvary.
- Again, if funds permit, we would like to complete the conservation and restoration of the canopy. Some very urgent work to make this safe had previously been undertaken, funded as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for stonework. A full restoration at that point was not possible.

How will this be paid for?

- We have received a generous donation from the Heritage of London Trust, which we hope will cover the work required.
- We are not yet certain that it will cover any additional work to the inscription or the canopy, as the final extent of remedial work is subject to the detailed survey.
- Should the funds not cover all of the work, we will fundraise for any shortfall.

How can you help?

- We would like your support for the petition of the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist to the Chancellor of the Diocese of London for formal faculty permission to conserve and repair the calvary cross outside St John's.
- Faculty permission is the planning process relating to the Church of England, and is a rigorous process in its own right, seeking advice from specialists in relevant fields.
- We are delighted that the church's own advisers support our application.

Form 4A (Rule 6.2) Public Notice (general form)

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of London

Church of St John-the-Baptist, Holland Road In the parish of St John the Baptist Holland Road (United Benefice with 1114)

NOTICE IS GIVEN that we are applying to the Consistory Court of the diocese for permission to carry out the following:

Conservation and restoration of the Calvary Cross situate at the north side of the porch of the church, together with additional works to re-carve the inscription and carry out further work to restore and conserve the canopy

Copies of the relevant plans and documents may be examined at The Benefice Office, St George's Church, Aubrey Walk LONDON W8 7JG

Petitioners:

- 1. The Revd Dr JAMES HEARD, VICAR of the United Benefice of Holland Park
- 2. JAMIE PRIESTLEY, CHURCHWARDEN of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Holland Road
- 3. LINDSAY FULCHER, CHURCHWARDEN of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Holland Road
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- Date 21 January 2021

How to make your views known

- **If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals you should send a letter stating the grounds of your objection to THE DIOCESAN REGISTRAR, Mr Stuart Jones, London Diocesan Registry, Birketts LLP, 106 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 4AA (stuart-jones@birketts.co.uk) so that your letter reaches the registrar not later than 21 February 2021. A letter of objection must include your name and address and state whether you live in the parish and/or your name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish or any other basis on which you have an interest in the matter.**
- If you wish to send a letter of support, please do so to either the Registrar as above, or to the Revd Dr James Heard, Vicar of St John's at Benefice Office, St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG (vicar@hollandparkbenefice.org)

Thank you

- Thank you for taking the time to view our presentation.
- St John's has undergone a major transformation since 2013 when work to renew the roof began. We opened our community space in 2018, and are starting to enable the church to be used by the local community.
- A project to improve the lighting in the church, funded entirely by the congregation and local community, was completed in the early autumn, and further work to improve the streetscape is planned.
- Further work providing sustainable efficient heating is planned so that the church can be used by the community all year round.