

FSPSP AGM 14 March 2023

Future Plans (JH)

Last year we had some storm damage to the church which has now been repaired.

The church roof is the most vulnerable part of the building and due to this it remains on Historic England's "At Risk" Register.

Our current main concern is the restoration work needed on the south transept.

The roof is a major problem as there is evidence of water leakage



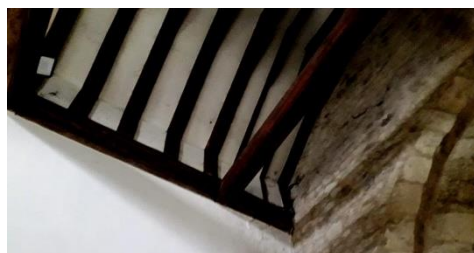
This is very worrying as there was previous infestations of death watch beetle here – and they love damp conditions.



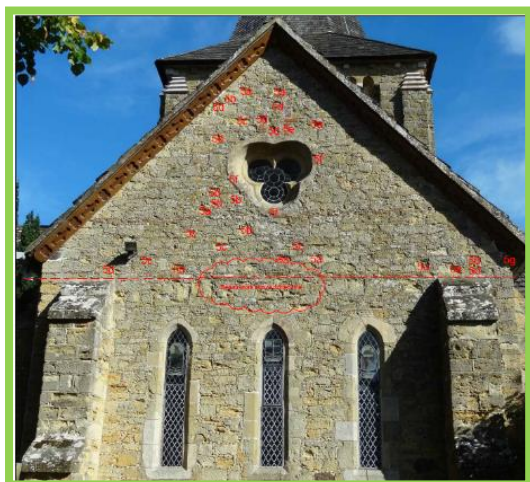
Evidence of dampness

East Side

West Side

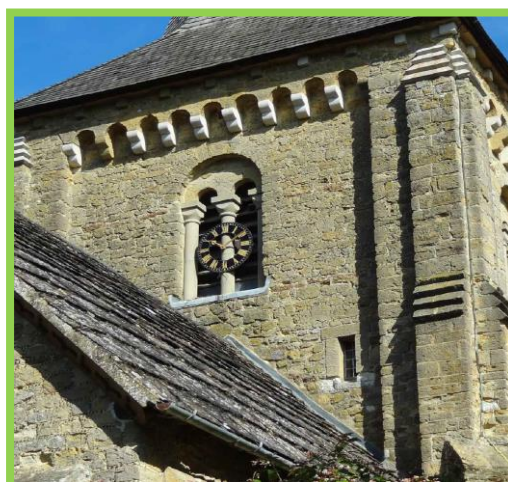


The stonework of the gable shows much erosion due to poor guttering.



This allows the water to splash out and damage the stonework.

This is repeated around the whole south transept and the bell tower.



Restoration work costs to these areas were calculated in 2018 and we had hoped that work would be done with those to the chancel & parts of the bell tower - but the money did not stretch that far.

We have had the restoration work reassessed for current costs and this has risen from £200,000 to at least £250,000.

This large amount requires the need to apply for public grants. We are advised to try for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant (HLF) first - as acceptance by them gives good credentials for other organisations to also give us grants.

With all HLF grants, applicants need to show how the work will improve the use of the building for the community and increase the use of the building. With this in mind the Trustees plan to add items which will improve the visual experience inside the church. This has already been done at St Nicholas Church Cranleigh, so we arranged a visit from their churchwarden who oversaw their work.

His recommendations, with associated control systems were:

Full retractable screen by the crossing arches

Data projector location beam in Nave



A camera in the crossing area will allow the filming of the altar and crossing areas

Small fixed repeater screen in the south transept would allow viewing here – two options.



A small repeater screen in the Chancel would allow viewing here, either on left or right hand side.



These items would mean that activities at the altar and the crossing could be seen in all areas of the church. These activities might be “live” performances or previously recorded ones and could include drama productions reflecting the history of the church and village.

To involve the community in this, local schools, Sayers Croft Rural Centre, the Church Youth Group, the Ewhurst Players and the History Society have been contacted and all are all willing to be involved in bringing the history of the village and the church to life through drama and music. Doing this would involve historical research, scripts, choreography, lighting, sound and video recording, giving people the chance to get involved at many different levels and develop new skills – another HLF requirement.

We plan to begin our HLF submission by submitting an **Expression of Interest Forms** by the end of April. The chart below shows all the stages we have to get through to get a full Grant for the restoration and community work we plan to do.

Stages in applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant

- Submit** **Expression of Interest Forms** - Grant over £250,000 and Grant under £250,000
2-3 weeks to hear if accepted
- Submit** **Initial Application** - Needs to be completed within 1 year *Up to 3 months wait for result*
- Submit** **Development Stage Document** - Needs to be completed within 1 year -
Small grant given to cover costs of professionals - *Up to 3 months wait for result*
- Submit** **Delivery Stage Document** - Needs to be completed within 1 year
Large grant given for costs of Restoration & Community work. *Up to 3 months wait for result*
Grant money paid in stages as work progresses

Note *Review and Analysis Document has to be filled in at end of Delivery Stage – HLF keeps some money back until this is completed and accepted by them! This needs to be completed within 6 months and the full amount is not paid until happy with evidence submitted*

Overall Time Frame

- 2023 Expressions of Interest & Initial Application submitted
- 2024 Development & Delivery stages submitted
- 2025 Delivery Stage starts

Other aspects of what we will be doing

With all the work talked about so far – it is important that FSPSP keeps up all its links with the community. We will be doing this with

- Our stall at the Ewhurst Carnival this summer
- Exploring the history of the church & bell tower during the Parish Fete and Heritage Weekend
- Experiencing a Spanish Evening in November
- Having our sale of locally based Christmas cards ready for the festive season