PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

St John's Chapel Weardale

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT DECEMBER 2022





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1.0

|General Information

1.01 Name of Church and Archdeaconry

St John the Baptist, St John's Chapel Diocese of Durham Archdeaconry of Auckland Conservation Area: St John's Chapel

1.02 Name and contact of Adviser with qualifications

CHLOE GRANGER BArch, AABC, SPAB Scholar chloe@crosbygrangerarchitects.co.uk

Telephone: 01539 555300

Signed: Signed:

1.03 Form of the Report

The following report has been prepared in line with the recommendations set out in 'A Guide to Church Inspection and Repair' (1995), to comply with the statutory requirement of the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955, and the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991. It is a general report, aimed at offering an overview of condition.

The report offers General Information and a Summary of the building's condition within Section 1.0, and Recommendations for work within Section 2.0.

Following this, Sections 3.0 to 6.0 discuss each area inspected in turn, illustrated with photographs.

This report has been prepared following a *visual inspection* of the church only. All inspections have been made from the ground and safely accessible galleries and roofs. This report should be seen as an overview, and not a detailed survey report. If further inspection or investigations are required they will be outlined within the recommendations for work.

1.04 Specific limitations of the report

The inspections have been made from the ground only, except where safely accessible galleries and roofs have made higher level visual inspection possible. Ladders have been used where considered safe, giving access to some gutters, but not all. Internal valley gutters and inaccessible roofs have not been inspected. Ceilings, roof timbers and wall plates have been examined from floor level only. There has been no higher level investigations, nor intrusive inspections carried out; hidden structures, embedded timbers, floor and ceiling voids and areas beyond reasonable sight from the ground have not been subject to inspection and as such, it cannot be reported that areas such as these are free from defects.

1.05 Dates of Inspection and previous inspection

The inspection for this report was carried out on 01 December 2022. The previous quinquennial inspection was carried out by Chloe Granger AABC in April 2015.

1.06 Weather on day of inspection

The weather on the day of inspection was damp and grey.

1.07 Brief Description of the Building and Listing Grade

St John's Chapel, St John's is listed Grade II.

Parish Church dated 1752 built on the site of a former medieval chapel. Church comprises of main Nave with western tower centrally positioned on the west gable, and chancel with north vestry off the chancel. Tower and west gable of Nave in dressed sandstone ashlar with protruding quoins to first two stages and corner pilasters to top third stage. Iron rich sandstone rubble to north, south and east walls of Nave and chancel with expressed sandstone quoins.

Windows to ground floor dressed sandstone, square headed lintels, jambs and sills; upper windows are round headed with impost blocks and keystone to former gallery and second stage of tower.

Pairs of round headed openings to upper stage of tower with timber louvres into the bell chamber. A dressed sandstone string course runs at gallery floor level throughout Nave and chancel elevations.

Roof has recently been fully relaid with green Westmorland slates to a small variance of diminishing courses. Stone copings to gables to east and west of Nave and east of chancel. Pyramidal roof of the tower has slightly swept eaves, also reroofed recently.

Internally the church is plastered and painted with expressed dressed ashlar details to former west window, (now blocked up), west door, chancel arch and four large Tuscan columns in the centre of the Nave – two in the north aisle and two in the south aisle. Flat ceiling to Nave painted with barrel vaulted timber ceiling in chancel. Some figurative stained glass to the upper windows of the former gallery, with all ground floor windows being plain glazed Georgian sash.

1.08 General condition of the Building

The general condition of the building is good. The roof and rainwater goods were all renewed in 2014 and are still in very good condition. Walls are generally in good condition, although there are signs of movement cracks mostly around windows, most noticeable on the south elevation and on the tower. The south-west corner appears particularly vulnerable.

There is deterioration and vertical splitting in many of the dressed stone jambs to the windows and door openings, particularly noticeable again on the south elevation, possibly attributable to movement or slumping causing fractures in the stone. The walling masonry is generally in good condition, although there are large areas of cementitious pointing that are beginning to cause advanced decay to the stonework.

Windows externally are now showing signs of deterioration; rotten cills and base rails are now noted below peeling

paintwork, particularly to the south

Internally there are a few areas of peeling paint and blistering plaster, notably the tower and south west corner. Cracks also noted internally, most sever at the south-west corner. Otherwise the rest of the interior is in good condition.

There is an extensive graveyard, which appears to be maintained in good condition for the most part, except the boundary walls that are beginning to suffer, and the far east end of the churchyard that has been left to become overgrown.

1.09 Safety aspects of the Building

There is currently level access from the pavement into the church and throughout the church itself, save steps up into the chancel. Access up into the tower is via a metal fixed ladder from ground, taking one up to the second stage of the tower. This fixed ladder is safe and secure and much more practical and sturdy than loose ladders. There are then a simple set of timber ladders to climb up into the ringing chamber, again sturdy and safe. There is no access out onto the roofs.

1.10 Schedule of Works completed since the previous report

2015

North upper stained glass window repaired and laminated glass to exterior added for protection, panel on brackets to interior. The Glaziers Company gave a grant of £1,000 towards this work.

April 2016

Brass memorial plaque installed south nave

2017

17 square metres re-pointing to west end of south aisle.

2018

Tree survey completed, recommendations carried out Church lectionary repaired

2019

Official War Grave notice fixed

2020

Section of churchyard wall rebuilt following collapse

2021

Church main door decoration Electrical inspection carried out Trees removed following storm

2022

Fire extinguishers etc. checked by fire brigade
Tree inspection - recommendations not carried out as dispute
with council over TPO

1.11 Work outstanding from the previous report [items listed are those that are still considered necessary]

2007 QIR

- repair loose sections of wall to north boundary wall
- Replace external window grille to chancel south window and south aisle central stained glass window with either new grilles or polycarbonate protective sheeting

2015 QIR

- remove loose stone/cement from over front door
- CCTV inspection of drainage for leaks/breakages
- repair to timer windows
- remove drainage channels at base of walls
- point holes in masonry
- ensure chimney stack is ventilated
- point up cracks in lime mortar
- remove ferrous fixings and broken wire window grilles
- repair external shed in north-west corner
- pointing of low-level plinth
- re-plaster areas where internal plaster blistered
- re-point boundary wall to road
- remove paint from interior walls to tower and nave and repaint in breathable paint
- replace domestic light fittings beside chancel arch

1.12 Records and Health and Safety file

The church had previously recorded all work carried out, including keeping all receipts/invoices, held by the Treasurer. Documents were, it is understood, stored within the safe in the vestry. Due to change of the treasurer, it appears the log book has gone missing.

It is recommended that a book is kept in the vestry for easy access so that written notes can be added by anyone overseeing any works on site.

2.0

|Recommendations for Repair/Renovation

All outstanding works from the last report (as noted above) that are deemed relevant have been included within the recommendations of this report. Please note; all works must be specified, overseen and approved by the inspecting architect or other conservation accredited professional to ensure quality and appropriateness of workmanship. This is not a schedule of works, only identification of where works are required - a full specification and schedule should be drawn up prior to repair works being carried out. Costs are only basic estimates - proper quotes should be obtained prior to any work being instructed.

ITEM	RECOMMENDED WORKS AND URGENCY	APPROX. £s
2.01	Urgent works requiring immediate attention	
a)	Remove loose stone/cement from over main west door, inside arched head of fanlight	DIY
b	Ensure all gutters, hoppers and gullies are clear and free-flowing, re-seal leaking joint on north.	£750
c)	Display 'Church is Open' sign daily, with notice on door of church directing visitors to Chatterbox café for the key, improving public engagement.	PCC
d	Access up to louvres of tower for repair/replacement of split louvres that may be a H&S concern.	£2,000
2.02	Works recommended to be carried out during the next 12 months	
a	Inspect drainage below ground for cracks and leaks in pipework using camera	£2,000
b	Remove concrete/stone channel at base of wall around perimeter – leave as open soil/earth initially to help dry out wall – full perimeter.	DIY / £500
C)	Joinery repairs to timber sash windows inc new cills and splice repair of jambs where necessary. Full preparation, primer and redecoration in Sadolin SuperDec to all windows following repairs.	£5,500
d)	Check headstones for stability	DIY
e)	Re-build collapsed boundary walls to north boundary (drystone walling) and carry out stabilising works to south boundary wall to inner leaf where destabilised.	£6,000
f	Repair external shed in north west corner of churchyard – now a hazard. Ensure any repair/rebuilding is carried out in lime mortar. Also now includes roof.	£12,000
g	Monitor cracks. Ask engineer to re-visit to check on tell-tale markers and review other cracks. Inspect bulging at wallhead of south chancel and possibility of roof spread.	DIY
h)	Rake out and re-point plinth to vestry. Inspect floor joists below floorboards and allow for repair to rotten joists.	£1,800
ij	Fix back small section of loose moulding from leading edge of internal porch door. Fix-back/seal the weatherboard to main west door and redecorate. Redecorate all external doors to ensure protection and longevity.	£1,500
j	Re-hang southern gate leaf (to main western entrance gate) on new/repaired pin.	£500

2.03		Works recommended to be carried out during the next two years	
	a)	Point up holes and crevices in walling generally, particularly noted on south elevation	£1,500
	b)	Ensure chimney stack is ventilated, both in vestry and within capping to top. Ensure chimney pots are capped.	£1,200
	c)	Point up cracks/opening joints above and beside window jambs and door of south chancel, all in lime mortar	£800
	d)	Remove redundant ferrous fixings in window reveals, remove old rusted wire grilles (replacement not considered necessary at this stage)	£500
	e)	Pointing of masonry to plinth at base of wall to church where joints are open and crevices forming	£3,000
	f)	Re-point boundary walls to west and south, including road elevation where heavily deteriorating – phased approach – tackle worst areas first	£25,000 (or phased)
	g)	Remove cement verge to vestry, pack out with lime mortar and slate to protect wallhead	£800
	h)	Plane bottom of internal vestry door to prevent from scrapping.	
	i)	Secure loose floor tiles in chancel and sanctuary.	£500
	j)	Carry out recommendations from electrical inspection – improvement recommended to sockets circuit	£1,200
2.04		Works required to be carried out within the next five years	
	a)	Re-plaster internal south and west walls of tower in lime plaster	£5,500
	b)	Beeswax tiles in chancel	£800
	c)	Inspection of trees in churchyard by tree surgeon (to be carried out every 5 years)	
2.05		Works required to be carried out in the longer term	
	a)	Remove paint from remaining internal elevations of tower (north and east) and repaint in a breathable paint to allow walls to dry	£2,500
	b)	Remove paint from walls in nave to allow walls to dry and breathe, repaint in breathable paint	£7,500
	c)	Replace domestic light fittings either side of chancel arch	£100

3.0

External Elements

3.01 Roof Coverings

The pyramidal roof of the tower and the main roof of Nave and chancel are all roofed in green Westmorland slates to a very slight diminishing course. All roofs were recovered in 2014 and lead work renewed. All roofs remain in excellent condition with no slipped or broken slates seen, though heavy moss build-up on the northern pitches was noted.

The roof of the vestry to the north of the chancel was also re-roofed with new lead work as elsewhere - no visible broken slates, but very heave moss build up. The verge to the east has no overhang and the slates appear slightly set back onto the wallhead requiring heavy cement flaunching. This leaves the top of the wallhead appears vulnerable and would benefit from better consolidation.

3.02 Rainwater goods and disposal systems

All rainwater goods have been renewed during the recent re-roofing scheme, including all gutters and downcomers with renewed or refurbished hoppers. All downcomers lead to ground where they spill out over gullies within drainage channel running around the perimeter of the church at the base of the plinth wall.

At the time of inspection gutters were blocked with vegetation and a gutter joint was leaking in the middle of the northern length. Most gullies were full of leaves.

In many areas the concrete channel is breaking up and in an ideal world these should actually be removed and a gravel filled trench added, or as a minimum left bare to the earth. To the west of the Nave and around the tower there is already a gravel strip around the base of the wall which is ideal for maintaining dry foundations and dry walls. The concrete channel to the north elevation of the Nave appears in the worst condition with more areas broken up and potentially holding water - this length should be lifted as a matter of priority.

It is assumed that the gullies lead to a below ground drainage system. It is essential to maintain all gullies free from debris and leaves to ensure proper runaway of water.

3.03 Drainage below ground

It is assumed that all gullies run into underground drainage systems, although it is not certain whether this will be a soak away or mains drainage. There is an external tap, also with a gully which one assumes connects into the main drainage system.

3.04 Bellcotes, parapets, chimneys and upstand verges

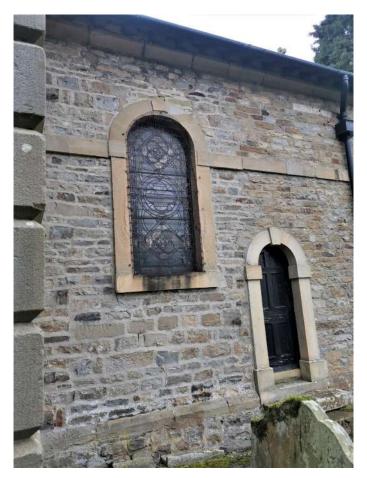
There is no Bellcote and there are no parapets.



Verge to vestry not shedding water adequately



Remove concrete channel and leave exposed to earth. Clear gullies.



Cracks through masonry and bulge over window



Heavy cementitious pointing will retain water

There is a chimney on the east gable of the Nave, rising from the vestry on the north side of the chancel. The chimney is for the fireplace in the vestry and is not from a boiler house. The chimney has been partially rebuilt in recent years and it is believed to have been capped off, although it is unsure whether the capping allows ventilation through the chimney shaft - this should be checked to ensure ventilation is allowed for.

All upstand verges with watertables appear in good condition and appear to have all been re-pointed during the major roofing works.

3.05 Walling

The masonry is generally in very good condition, despite the pointing of many areas being cementitious. There are quite a number holes and crevices within masonry joints where former rainwater goods have been removed and pointing has fallen away. These holes and open joints require packing and re-pointing.

There are cracks noticeable running between upper and lower windows in most window bays, but more noticeable on the south elevation. The western most windows on the south elevation appear to be the most severe, with a crack through the lintel of the ground floor window and crack through the string course above and into the upper window. Other cracks between upper and lower windows on the rest of the south elevation and on the north elevation appear to be through joints. There is a reasonably large open joint to the west of the stone sill of the upper eastern-most south nave window, and below that a stone within the string course appears to have been dislodged. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

There is noticeable cracking through stones on the east elevation of the Nave on the south corner, and above, there appears to be areas of previous pointing-up of cracks through joints at the upper levels. *NO CHANGE since the last QI*.

This movement in the structure is possibly being caused by soft ground conditions, (caused by poor or leaking drainage), disturbed ground, or movement due to proximity of trees on the south elevation.

There is also movement above and around the south chancel window and between window and the external door. There are large open crevices at plinth level and cement pointing over the area around the window and between window and door indicating that there has been attempts at rectification in the past. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

The wallhead in this area (south chancel) appears to be bulging out, possibly indicating roof spread.

The plinth masonry particularly on the north elevation has quite a number of open joints where splash-back from the concrete channel is washing out the mortar. The stonework is heavily covered in algae and moss on the north and east.



Heavy moss, damp plinth, cementitious pointing - may have caused timber rot to floor internally



Lose masonry to reveal over fanlight. Crack through jamb to window above

The plinth to the vestry was noted as being particularly damp and may correspond with rotten joists to the floor void - to be inspected.

There are a number of gaps around window dressings, notable on the western most windows of the north aisle and to the west of the south external door from the chancel. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

There is delaminating masonry to the south elevation of the tower, exacerbated/caused by cementitious pointing and/or mortar repairs.

3.06 Timber porches, doors and canopies

External doors are timber, pitch pine painted and all appear in fair structural condition though would benefit from redecoration. The weatherboard to the left-hand leaf of the main west door is coming detached and required securing.

The external door in the south chancel elevation is no longer used and is permanently locked.

There are no porches or canopies. The exposed timber rafter ends and soffit boards are painted and appear in good condition.

3.07 Windows

All window openings are expressed in dressed ashlar, the ground floor windows being square headed and the upper floor windows being round headed with impost blocks and keystones.

There is some deterioration to many of the window and door dressings, including vertical splitting of the stone jambs, indicating vertical bedding, (strata of the stone in a vertical plane, rather than horizontal, causing stone to split under pressure). NO CHANGE since the last QI.

To the main westerly front door there is cementitious patching to the jambs and to the half round heads, which is now detaching and the stone behind is becoming friable. To the northern quadrant over the door there is still a portion of stone which is loose - this was picked up in the last QI and should be removed and repaired with mortar. The joints also still are open around the keystone.

The round headed window above has a crack through its sill but this is most probably due to an old rusted fixing right through the centre of the sill. There are minor signs of vertical splits at the joint of jamb to sill. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

There is a partial crack in the lintel to the western-most window of the north aisle on the ground floor and corresponding full crack through the whole lintel of the western most ground floor window on the south elevation as previously noted. *NO CHANGE since the last QI.*



Splits down vertical window jambs. Cracks through head lintel and stringcourse above.



Rotten window cills that now require repair

The window dressings to the north elevation generally are showing signs of weathering to both tower window and belfry openings as well as the main Nave windows, with delamination of the ground floor eastern-most window of the north elevation being the most severe of this elevation. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

The stone surround to the central window on the upper north aisle has been compromised by dressing back of the jambs and the impost blocks and keystone to accommodate an iron grille which has now been removed. Fixings for the grille are still in situ and will be causing damage to the stone. The right-hand jamb is also dislodged. *NO CHANGE since the last QI*.

The surround to the south window in the chancel is showing some signs of deterioration, including damage from iron fixings of an iron grille. There is some splitting of the stone to the jambs and also to the sill. As noted previously, there is cracking around this window including through the keystone which has been crudely re-pointed. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

The two small windows in the east elevation of the Nave have redundant ferrous fixings within the external stonework that should be removed and re-pointed. *NO CHANGE since the last OI*

To the south elevation, all window dressings to the ground floor have vertical splits within the jambs and some creasing in the keystones, possibly indicating a weakness in the stone. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

Upper windows appear in better condition, although the right hand jamb of the western-most window is dislodged, opening up the joint. This bay shows the most movement as highlighted earlier.

There are some windows that *still* sport badly rusted iron wire grilles (central southern window), or fixings from removed grilles - these should be removed, including all fixings, and new stainless steel wire grilles with stainless steel fixings be inserted, if deemed necessary. *NO CHANGE since the last QI*.

The windows themselves have deteriorated since the last inspection, with some cills or bottom rails rotten as a result of paint deterioration. All timber windows now require comprehensive refurbishment, including striping back of paintwork, repair of rotten cills, bottom rails and the base of some side jambs, full preparation with primer and redecoration using a high-quality paint system such as Sadolin SuperDec. Proper timber repairs should be carried out rather than relying on filler, which in some instances has caused current issues.

The timber windows appear to be original Georgian, mostly with original crown glass so are highly significant and should be preserved; original plain glazing is fast diminishing.

4.0

Internal Elements

4.01 Towers, spires

There is a tower to the west of the main Nave with a pyramidal slated roof. There is no spire.

The tower is square in plan accommodating a porch on the ground floor, with double height space and a ceiling at third stage level.

To the porch the floor is stone flags in reasonable condition, with a central carpet to save footfall on the original flags.

Walls are plastered and painted as elsewhere with a rough render to dado height and smooth plaster above. Since the last inspection the condition of the walls has worsened. There is damaged paintwork and mildew over much of the upper levels of the south and west walls, and blistering and detaching plasterwork noted particularly around window and door reveals.

Unfortunately, the paint used is vinyl paint and so will be trapping the moisture within the wall and will not be allowing the wall to dry out. This will result in blistering and peeling paint, as can be seen. It is known that some stain remover and sealer paint has been used to try and alleviate the issue but this will just push the moisture elsewhere and cause finishes to fail. Since the condition is worsening, re-plastering should now be considered.

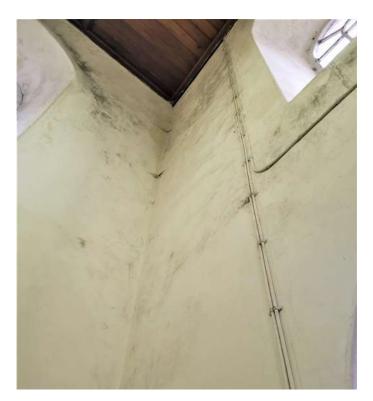
The ceiling is boarded, over moulded ribs all in pitch pine natural finish, most probably oiled. There is an access hatch up to the second stage accessed from a fixed metal ladder running up the east wall of the tower. Through the access hatch, one enters a very low sub-bell-chamber floor with exposed stone walls and timber floor - all appears dry and sound.

The floor of the bell chamber is above, accessed by short timber steps. The floor is laid with lead, walls are exposed masonry and the roof is exposed to the structure. Timber work all appears sound, mostly new. The masonry all appears sound and dry and the lead-lined floor was dry though would benefit from a sweep and clean.

The bell frame seems in excellent condition as are bell mechanisms.

The timber louvres within the belfry openings could not be seen from the inside due to the sheeting fixed to the inside, however, it was noted externally that some louvres are split and particularly one on the south elevation is split severely and requires fixing/replacing.

The bird netting within the belfry would benefit from resecuring where loose and detached.

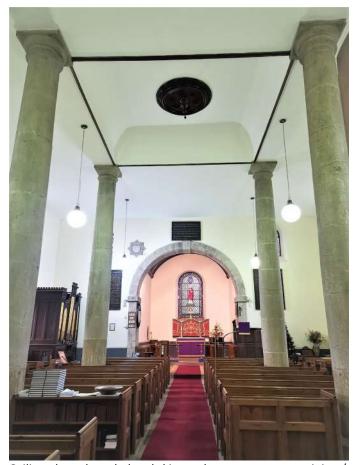




Internal walls of tower worsened - non-breathable paint making issues worse



Roof void appears to be dry and sound



Ceiling plasterboarded and skimmed - some movement joints/ cracks showing through at west end

4.02 Clocks and their enclosures

The clock mechanism is within the bell chamber set against the western wall behind the bell frame. The clock has recently been automated. The clock is in excellent condition and good working order and is serviced and maintained regularly. The clock casing is also in good condition and protects the clock mechanism well.

4.03 Roof and ceiling voids

The roof void over the Nave is accessed from the upper stage of the tower down some timber steps onto a platform over the ceiling of the Nave.

The full roof structure can be seen from within the roof void. The roof structure is made up of large king post trusses with purlins and rafters all in excellent condition. There are a few timber repairs that were carried out during the re-roofing works in 2014, including the purlin end bearing into the west wall of the Nave on the south pitch.

The roof void over the Chancel can be seen at the end of the Nave through a very small crawl space through the wall of the Nave.

The roof space of the Nave and Chancel all appeared dry and seemed in good condition from what could be seen.

4.04 Roof structures and ceilings.

The ceiling of the Nave is flat above the line of the upper windows with a central coffered square with large centrepiece, formerly a source of ventilation with a hanging gas chandelier.

The coffered central square is formed from an independent structure seen from in the roof void. The coffered square is trimmed with timber moulding, darkly stained with a moulded timber or plaster centrepiece roundel, also stained to imitate a very dark wood. The coffered square is supported at four corners with round Tuscan columns reaching from floor to ceiling.

The rest of the ceiling of the Nave is flat (plasterboard and skim) with a few areas of cracking along joints of boards, and staining from former water ingress. There is a hatch at the east end which has been painted over. Most of the ceiling cracks appear at the west end. *NO CHANGE since the last QI*.

To the Chancel the ceiling is timber barrel vaulted with moulded ribs and cornice. Between ribs the barrel vaulting is exposed timber boarding stained dark. All is in good condition.

4.05 Internal structures, balustrading, upper floors, balconies and access stairways.

All internal walls to the Nave and Chancel are plastered and



New crack in plaster to west of western window, damp damaged finishes. Tell-tale to western wall

Close-up below:



painted with rough stucco plaster up to a rounded moulded dado, and smooth plaster above.

There are several cracks in the plaster work, mostly associated with cracks in the masonry externally. Cracks noticeable in the bays of most windows between the upper and lower opening, and there are large cracks almost full height at the west end of the Nave gable at roughly the junction of the tower.

The southern-most crack to the west gable has tell-tale markers which are monitoring any movement within the crack. Cracks between the upper and lower windows and below the sills of the ground floor windows are most obvious on the south elevation, although hairline cracks can also be seen on the north elevation. The cracks within the far western bay on the south elevation is the most noticeable, as represented externally as well. *NO CHANGE since the last QI*.

There are signs of damp on the south elevation at the west end with cracking around a substantial area. The paint applied is a standard vinyl emulsion which again will not be allowing the wall to breathe and will be trapping moisture. The finishes are blistering to the west of the western-most window.

There is movement in the plasterwork on the north elevation in the Chancel, although this appears to be historic - detaching from the substrate at the junction of the vestry.

Damp within the window reveal of the main east window of the Chancel appears to have dried out since the last inspection.

The dressed masonry of the western doorways, the stone sills to the ground floor windows, the large Tuscan round columns and the Chancel arch are all in good condition. All stonework is dressed and most probably would have been painted with lime wash. Now the stonework is exposed with only evidence of former lime washing within the grooves of the tooling work to the Tuscan columns.

The windows are all original Georgian sliding sash on the ground floor, with coloured figurative windows to some of the upper windows. The timber sashes now require repair and refurbishment. As noted previously, it is imperative that the glass is preserved.

The stained glass windows could not be inspected due to their height. There were several panes seen from the ground that are broken and require repair. The central window of the north aisle is of particular interest; a stained glass figurative window set within a cast iron profile, painted to look like it is leaded. This is now set on brackets to the inside of the reveal with a plain glazed panel to the exterior, thus protecting it from the elements.

4.06 Partitions, Screens, Panelling, Doors and Ironmongery

There is no panelling within the church, nor any screens or partitions.



Tiles in chancel and sanctuary in good condition except some loose individual ones. Should not be sealed



Stone flags in good condition - should not be sealed

The door into the Vestry is pitch pine, with a shellac coating in reasonable condition, although there are several chips now in the door around the keyhole and to the door frame. This door sticks on the floorboards when opened into the vestry and requires planing.

The internal door into porch is pitch pine, stained timber and in good condition, though a small section of moulding appears to have worked its way loose on the northern leaning edge, required fixing back.

The ironwork to the internal porch doors, the external doors, to the Vestry and the south Chancel door is all original in a very nice style and in good condition.

4.07 Ground floor structure, timber platforms and underfloor ventilation

The floor is stone flags to the aisles and the area in front of the Chancel arch, with flush timber flooring to the pews laid with wood block.

There are ventilation grills externally, venting the under-floor void of the aisles with, it is assumed, ventilation voids running into the Nave pew stands as well.

Down the central aisle there are cast iron grilles below a carpet runner that runs the length of the Nave and Chancel. There is an historic solid fuel burner under the floor to the west end of the Nave in the central aisle. This presumably fed the historic heating pipework which ran along the centre of the Nave and possibly around the perimeter.

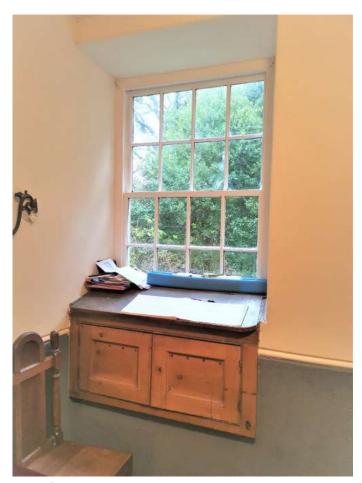
The floors generally, both stone and timber, are in very good condition. *NO CHANGE since the last QI.*

There is one step up into the Chancel; a stone step leading to patterned clay tiles within the quire to two further stone steps up into the sanctuary, which is laid with encaustic decorative tiles.

The choir stalls are on raised timber plinths. The tiles to the quire appear worn and weathered but are in fine condition. They should not be mopped with a wet mop as this can aid deterioration of the finish. The glaze appears to have been lost and there are signs of salt damage.

The encaustic tiles of the sanctuary appear in reasonable condition although again the glaze is being worn off in some areas. A small number of loose tiles were noted in the sanctuary and would benefit from securing.

Attempts should not be made to re-glaze in any modern applied material. If sheen is required only beeswax should be used to polish.



Base of window behind desk is rotten externally



Area of floor to east vestry wall is spongey underfoot indicating lack of support, possibly rotten joists

4.08 Internal finishes

Internal finish to walls is paintwork and, as described previously, in some areas is beginning to peel and flake due to dampness within the wall structure. Unfortunately vinyl paint has been used which will not be allowing the main core of the wall to breathe.

4.09 Fittings, fixtures, furniture and movable articles

All furniture and fixtures are in good condition. *NO CHANGE* since the last QI.

Pews are all of pitch pine, varnished and in good working order. The clerical furniture is generally oak, including oak panelled and moulded pulpit which is contemporary with the build. The choir stalls are pitch pine but have been stained darker to try and match the oak of the pulpit, lectern etc.

The altar rail and the seats within the sanctuary are also oak and well-polished. All other fixtures and fittings are plain and simply elegant, such as the painted reredos and the plaques with the Lord's Prayer around the Chancel arch.

The font is carved stone with a timber cover, the timber cover is carved in oak in a Georgian Gothic style and is in dedication of the memory of Mary Green and Ann Green who passed away in 1861 and 1865 respectively. The stone font is in memory of Jane Green, passed in 1839. The font was moved to the location to the south side of the main west door in 1976. The font appears to be in good condition, with no issues.

4.10 Toilets, kitchens, vestries, etc.

There are no toilets or kitchen facilities within the Church.

There is a vestry to the north of the Chancel with former fireplace now blocked up. The floor of the Vestry is timber floor boarded, sloping slightly to the north, which generally seems in sound condition although to the east wall below the window the floorboards feel unsupported, possibly indicating rotten floor joists below. This should be investigated.

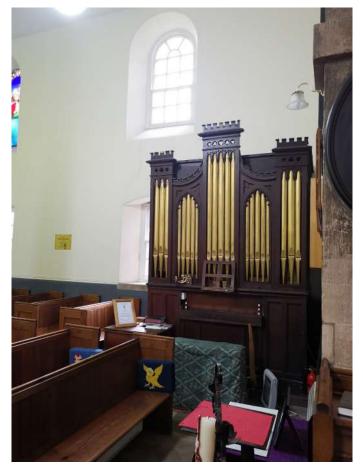
The walls are plastered and painted in the same style as elsewhere, with rough stucco render to dado height and smooth plaster above, painted with the same colour scheme.

There is a safe set in the west wall, cast iron in excellent condition. A new key has been made in recent years.

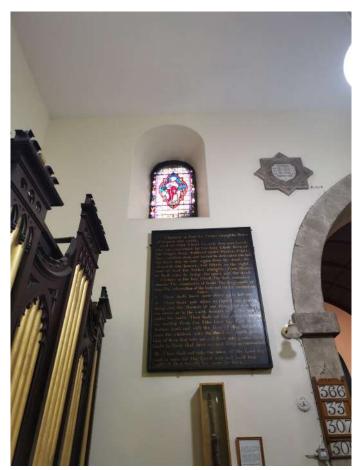
There is an access hatch into the roof void painted in shellac, (in good condition) within the flat ceiling which appears sound.

There are areas of peeling paint, indicating damp – most notably around the area of the chimney breast on both ceiling and wall. It essential that the chimney flue is ventilated.

There is an external door to the east, large vertical panelled door, shellac painted with large strap hinge and a large rim lock all in excellent working order and condition. Modern bolts have been added internally.



Grade I listed organ, in excellent condition



Boarded verse contemporary with church - good condition

There is an eight over eight Georgian sash window, with Crown glass as elsewhere. This has deteriorated since the last inspection, and the cill externally is completely rotten requires repair and refurbishment.

The fitted desk against the window is again painted in shellac and in good condition.

There is a former gas lantern hook next to the writing desk on the north wall of the vestry, which is an interesting piece of history. Full height cupboards are set within the south wall of the vestry, again with painted shellac doors also shellac panelling internally.

4.11 Organs and other instruments

The organ is a 19th Century box organ and has been awarded a certificate Grade I in recognition of it being an outstanding 19th Century instrument. It is listed in the Institute's Register of Historic Pipe Organs and is of importance to the National Heritage.

Its style is Georgian, vertical piped with good quality timber frame stained dark, with gold pipes. All appears in excellent condition and it is understood it is in good working order and is serviced regularly. There is also a small piano positioned at the front of the south aisle but it does not appear to be in use. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

4.12 Monuments, tombs, plaques etc

There are various plaques and dedications mounted on the walls within the church, mostly 19th Century. They all appeared stable and secure at the time of inspection. NO CHANGE since the last QI.

The southern window within the Chancel is dedicated to Reverend James Green in 1867.

The central window within the gallery level of the south aisle is dedicated to Sarah Jane Green, who died in 1888 and is a figurative window of Jesus and possibly Mary Magdalene.

The other figurative windows are also dedicated, although the names are unknown.

There are no ledger stones to the floor, there are no tombs.

5.01 Services installations generally

The church runs on mains electricity which powers the lighting and heating. There is no mains gas and there is no gas boiler. There is water externally for flower bearers, there is no water internally. There is no oil on site. The church was originally lit by gas lanterns, some of the fittings and fixtures into the walls still remain.

5.02 Gas installation

There is no gas installation to the site.

5.03 Electrical installation

The church is served by mains electrical power, which was last inspected in September 2021 with only one recommendation for improvement - completing a ring circuit of sockets. The installation was signed off as *Satisfactory*.

Modern wiring appears to have been carried out in MIC cabling.

The electrical installation powers heating below each pew in the central aisle, also a heater beside the organ and within the Chancel. Electricity also provides power sockets and lighting. Lights are simple glow lights, hung from former gas lantern positions within the Nave and two floodlights to light the Chancel are mounted behind the Chancel arch. *NO CHANGE since the last OI*.

There are two rather domestic looking wall lights mounted either side of the Chancel arch on the Nave side, one over the pulpit, the other on the corresponding side to match - these would benefit from replacement for more appropriate fittings at some point.

There is functional lighting in the tower and within the bell ringing chamber.

5.04 Water system

There is water supply externally mounted on the east wall of the vestry beside the external door. There is no internal water supply.

5.05 Oil installation

There is no oil supply.

5.06 Sound installation

There is no permanent wired sound system within the church.

5.07 Lightning conductor

There is no lightning conductor.

5.08 Fire precautions

There is a Triclass fire extinguisher within the tower, and another in the church, one foam and one CO2, both of which were last serviced in November 2022. It is a requirement that this extinguishers are services yearly.

It is recommended that all church wardens and clergy know which extinguisher to use in which instance.

CO2 - electrical fires Foam - all other fires

5.09 Heating and Ventilation

Heating is provided by convector heaters positioned below each pew within the central aisle.

These are turned on prior to services and it is believed heat the church, or rather heat the space reasonably well.

The former heating installation can be seen below the cast iron grilles in the central aisle below the carpet runner.

5.10 Asbestos

It is unknown whether there is any asbestos present. No asbestos inspections have been carried out and there has been no suspicion of any asbestos materials being present.

Curtliage

6.0



Garden waste against wall will be adding pressure to wall and maintaining a damp wall that could lead to mortar washout and de-stabilisation



Boundary wall to road in poor condition

6.01 Churchyard

The church is set within an extensive churchyard, which runs from the east end of the Chancel eastwards. The churchyard is mostly kept well, with many tomb stones and grass between. There a quite a large number of mature trees both to the south and to the east and along the boundary wall to the south. The eastern end of the churchyard is very overgrown and dilapidated with vegetation taking over around graves and headstones and markers are collapsing.

Piles of gardening waste against the walls to north and south are not ideal and will be adding undue pressure on walls that are already in questionable condition.

6.02 Ruins

There are no ruins within the curtilage.

6.03 Monuments, tombs and vaults

There are a number of elaborate grave markers within the churchyard, some of which are listed in their own right. These are:

- Emerson tomb about 15 metres east of Church, near south wall of churchyard
- Hackword tomb about 2 metres east of east end of Church
- Somerville tomb about 5 metres south of chancel of Church
- Currah tomb about 4 metres south of Church
- Peart tomb about 4 metres south of Church

All are still standing and seem in a stable condition. NO CHANGE since the last OI.

There are no vaults within the churchyard, there are several tombs.

6.04 Boundaries and gates

The boundary of the site on all sides is built up of stone walling in mixed condition.

To the north a drystone wall backs onto fields and then the old vicarage towards the western end of the churchyard. This wall has become unstable and fallen in several areas and has not yet been rebuilt. More areas noted since last QI.

The eastern boundary wall is collapsed in two sections and requires re-building.

The boundary wall to the south bounds the road and is heavily mossed. The internal face is suffering in several areas where the stones have loosened and fallen away, leaving the remaining wall structure weakened and vulnerable. The added build-up of fallen stones and gardening waste may also be



Eastern boundary wall - areas of collapse



Northern boundary areas of collapse and trees/shrubbery growing on/through wall in a number of locations



Garden shed roof collapsed - dangerous. Northern wall of shed/boundary wall also collapsed at eastern corner

adding undue pressure. Destabilisation, particularly beside the trees, is evident. To the road side, the wall has been heavily pointed in a weak cementitious mortar, most of which is failing. This would benefit from re-pointing in a lime mortar.

The boundary wall to the west is in mixed condition, with a beech hedge to the rear which appears to be causing movement issues within the wall.

The pair of gates to the western entrance are in fair condition, though the southern of the pair now does not shut and requires re-hanging on a new / repaired pin. Both gates require decoration.

6.05 Trees and shrubs

There are a number of large mature trees and large areas of shrubbery throughout the churchyard, all appear to be maintained well, with some areas more wild looking than others.

The trees along the southern side are causing an issue with destabilising the south boundary wall and requires review.

6.06 Hardstanding areas

There is a stone flagged area to the main west entrance of the tower from the wrought iron gates which is in good condition.

There is a stone and concrete channel running around the perimeter of the church as previously described, which is in poor condition particularly to the east and northern sides. This would benefit from removal to allow the base of the walls to dry out.

6.07 Buildings within the curtilage

There is a small garden shed positioned on the boundary wall at the northwest corner of the site which is in extremely poor condition , has deteriorated since the last inspection and is now a dangerous structure. This should be attended to for security and stabilisation purposes. Works should be carried out by a competent mason in lime mortar and should not be rebuilt in cement.

6.08 Notice boards

The noticeboard is positioned on the west wall of the tower next to the main front door, it is simple, timber glazed and in good condition.

It is recommended that the 'Church is Open' sign is put out every day, with a notice on the church door directing visitors to Chatterbox Cafe for the key. This would make the church 'appear' open, even if it requires a key, improving not only perception of the church, but also of St John's Chapel.



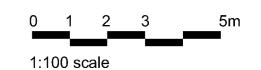
Front of garden shed leaning out and masonry unstable - dangerous - the area in front should be fenced off

6.09 Works Required to provide Disabled Access and Parking Space

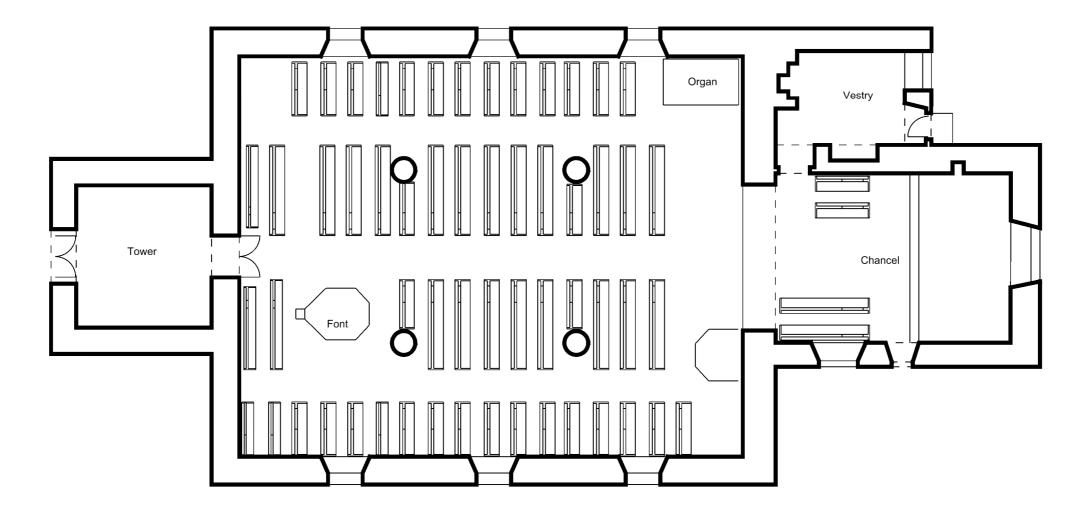
There is no on-site parking. Parking is available on the road. The small lane in front of and to the west side of the church offers plenty of safe parking, including for the disabled.

There is a short walk or wheelchair access run from the road into church and is all level access.

|Appendix A |Floor Plan



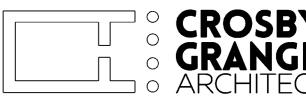
A3



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Do not scale from drawing. Dimensions are to be checked onsite.

Revision	Date	Note							
			PROJE	ROJECT St John's Chapel, St John					
			TITLE		EXISTING	G FLOOR PL	LAN		_
			STATU	S	Prelimina	ary			
			DRAWING N	JMBER	AL(01)01	REVISION		SCALE	1: 100
			DRAWN BY	CLG	3	CHECKED BY C	LG	DATE	April 2015



| Appendix B | Maintenance Plan

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST JOHN'S CHAPEL - MAINTENANCE PLAN

E/C External contractor

I/H In house inspection

Χ Applicable

Architect quinquennial inspection

A SE Structural engineer inspection

TF Timber specialist

Maintenance inspection/works utilising high level access

Maintenance I/H subject to suitable safety measure being put in place

Item no.	Location	Building element	Details of maintenance item	Details of inspection and maintenance	Legal consideration and responsibility	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Comments
A1	External	Roof coverings	Slates	Inspect for cracked, broken or missing slates with binoculars from ground. If required, maintain with new slate replacement using lead or copper tags	Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to inspect from ground. If defects found, roofer to be employed									
A2	External	Roof coverings	Ridge tiles	Inspect for cracked or broken ridge tiles and missing mortar bedding. Replace/ repoint in NHL5 mortar	Health and Safety Legislation			E/C *			E/C *			E/C *		Architect to assist with or approve specification
A3	External	Roof coverings	Lead flashings	Inspect for splits/ defects. Replace sections of defective lead with new, appropriately coded for length and application	Health and Safety Legislation			E/C *			E/C *			E/C *		Architect to assist with or approve specification
B1	External	Rainwater disposal	Out-board gutters fixed to rafters/facias, and downpipes	Inspect for leaking/ open joints and poor or loose fixings. Seal joints, repair fixings	Health and Safety Legislation			E/C *			E/C *			E/C *		
B2	External	Rainwater disposal	Out-board gutters fixed to rafters/facias, and downpipes	Maintenance inspection - Clear out debris and leaves to ensure free-flowing, including all outlets	Health and Safety Legislation	I/H **	Wardens/ volunteers to carry out cleaning, ensuring all safety precautions are met									
В3	External	Rainwater disposal	Out-board gutters fixed to rafters/facias, and downpipes	Maintenance - Rub down and repaint inside and out, ensuring all joints are sealed	Health and Safety Legislation						E/C					
B4	External	Rainwater disposal	Gullies	Maintenance - Clear out gullies, ensuring free from debris/ leaves etc, inspect for cracks	Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	і/н	I/H	і/н	Wardens/ volunteers to carry out cleaning						
B5	External	Rainwater disposal	Drainage	Maintenance inspection, cleaning / jetting out to ensure all flowing away from building freely	Health and Safety Legislation					E/C					E/C	Wardens/ volunteers to inspect and clear out gullies ensuring water flows away freely
C1	External	Masonry walling	Upstands and watertabling	Inspect for stability, ensuring joints are full. Remedial works to be specified if required	Health and Safety Legislation					A *					A *	Architect to assist with or approve specification
C2	External	Masonry walling	Chimney	Inspect for stability, ensuring joints are full. Remedial works to be specified if required	Health and Safety Legislation					E/C					E/C	Steeplejack to inspect.
C3	External	Masonry walling	Mortar pointing generally	Inspection of joints for loose mortar/ open joints	Health and Safety Legislation					A *					A *	
C4	External	Masonry walling	Mortar pointing generally	Maintenance of mortar joints - rake out and repoint open joints with lime:sand mortar, as identified by Architect	Health and Safety Legislation, Planning/ LBC					E/C					E/C	Architect to assist with or approve specification
C5	External	Masonry walling	Stone mouldings, window reveals, stringcourses and hoodmoulds	Inspect for newly developed, or developing cracks, particularly to the underside of rolls with binoculars from ground. Raise any concerns with Architect		I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	і/н	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	Staff/ volunteers to inspect using binoculars
C6	External	Masonry walling	Stone mouldings, window reveals, stringcourses and hoodmoulds	Inspect for newly developed, or developing cracks, particularly to the underside of rolls check for stability/ detaching of stonework. Check for open joints						A *					A *	

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	^{П4}	internal	vvalis	DEIOW HOOF VOIG	bricks/ vents	meaith and Sarety Legislation	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	maintain

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11	Internal	Surfaces	Painted walls	Repaint Health and Safety Legislation					E/C					E/C	Architect to assist with or approve specification
12	Internal	Surfaces	Ceilings	Repaint Health and Safety Legislation										E/C	Architect to assist with or approve specification
13	Internal	Surfaces	Cast iron work	Repaint Health and Safety Legislation										E/C	Architect to assist with or approve specification
14	Internal	Surfaces	Steelwork, bellframes etc	Defrass and repaint in anti-corrosive paint Health and Safety Legislation system	E/C										Architect to assist with or approve specification
J1	Internal	Windows	Glazing	Check for broken panes of glass and any damage to leadwork in stained glass	і/н	I/H	I/H	I/H	А	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	А	Wardens/ volunteers to check & report to Architect
J2	Internal	Windows	Glazing	Carefully clean windows using PHneutral Health and Safety Legislation water and a soft cloth	І/Н	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to maintain								
J3	Internal	Windows	Glazing	Listen for rattling of panes indicating detachment from tie bars or loose glazing panels Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	А	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	А	Wardens/ volunteers to review when church in use
K1	Internal	Timber	Windows & doors	Inspect woodwork for deterioration/ rot Health and Safety Legislation					А					А	
K2	Internal	Timber	Windows & doors	Maintenance inspection of all ironmongery to ensure working effectively, and all openable windows can be easily opening for ventilation	I/H	I/H	I/H	і/н	І/Н	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to maintain
К3	Internal	Timber	Panelling, doors & skirtings	Maintenance wax treatment/repainting Health and Safety Legislation					E/C					E/C	
K4	Internal	Timber	Timber structures generally	Inspect all timberwork embedded into masonry for signs of deterioration/ rot, particularly checking joists, under floors and in cupboards where close environments could lead to ideal conditions for rot					А					А	
L1	Internal	Services/ protection	Fire alarm system, fire extinguishers and other fire safety equipment	To be serviced by engineer Health and Safety Legislation	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	
L2	Internal	Services/ protection	Fire alarm system	To be checked regularly (fire alarm test/ drill) Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to maintain - test weekly, or as recommended
L3	Internal	Services/ protection	Electrics generally, including power, lighting and audio installations, PAT	Inspection by engineer Health and Safety Legislation	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	No legal timeframe - frequently enoughto ensure there is no chance of the installation being unsafe. PAT testing recommended every year.
L4	Internal	Services/ protection	Lighting/ audio installations	Maintenance to ensure all in working order Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to maintain
L5	Internal	Services/ protection	Security alarm system	To be serviced by engineer Health and Safety Legislation	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	E/C	At the discretion of the PCC - frequently enough to ensure in good working order
L6	Internal	Equipment	Organ	To be serviced by engineer Health and Safety Legislation		E/C		E/C		E/C		E/C		E/C	
L7	Internal	Equipment	Clock mechanism	To be serviced by engineer Health and Safety Legislation					E/C					E/C	
M1	Internal	Accessibility	Entrances	Maintain all entrances that enable ease of entry Health and Safety Legislation	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	I/H	Wardens/ volunteers to maintain
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Appendix C |Listing Text

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL NY 8837 38/258 Church of St. John the Baptist 31.1.67 GV II

Parish church. 1752, on site of medieval chapel; chancel extended 1881-3 by Ewan Christian. Varied stone rubble with ashlar dressings; ashlar west front and tower; chamfered plinth, and quoins. Roof of graduated Lakeland slates with stone gable copings. West tower; galleried nave; chancel with north vestry. 3-stage tower, the first stage quoined and the third with angle pilasters, has 6-panelled double west door, and fanlight with radial glazing bars, in round- headed surround with key and impost blocks. Similar surrounds to windows in second stage below cornice and paired, round-headed bell openings, with painted round clock set on west pair. Side elevations have square-headed raised stone surrounds to ground-floor windows, and round-headed south door. Most windows have broad glazing bars; (pictorial glass in some gallery windows and in east window). Gallery floor-level band. Pyramidal tower roof has slightly swept eaves; east stone cross finial. Wide stone gutter at ground level.

Interior: painted plaster above rough-rendered dado; tooled ashlar dressings. Plaster nave ceiling with central coved section between columns; wood-panelled barrel-vaulted chancel. Gallery removed. 2 tall Tuscan columns in each aisle have tooled lower sections on chamfered plinths; round, keyed chancel arch on impost blocks and pilasters; similar treatment to inner west door and blocked window above. South chancel medallion glass in memory of Rev. James Green, 1867, signed Ox and Son, London in Maltese cross. Pulpit had fielded panels and dentilled cornice on moulded stone base. Early C19 chamber organ, by Nicholson of Newcastle. Memorials include whitemarble scroll on black mount to members of Robson family, signed G. Maile and Son, Euston Road, London; brass in Gothic frame, dated 1912, to Lieutenant John Brumwell, 1785-1812, who died in the Peninsular War. C18 painted creed and commandment panels flank chancel arch, and pater board above.

Listing NGR: NY8855337937

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

NY 8837

38/263 Emerson tomb about 15 metres east of Church of St. John, near south wall of churchyard

GV II

Headstone. Circa 1737. Commemorates John Emerson of Low Linge Rigg. Sandstone slab about ½ metre high, with inscription in large letters framed by pilasters supporting moulded bracket-shaped top.

Listing NGR: NY8858137919

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

NY 8837

38/262 Hackword tomb about 2 metres east of east end of Church of St. John

GVII

Headstone. Circa 1718. Commemorates Anne Hackword. Sandstone slab about 1/2 metre high, with square head and small diagonal cuts at corners. Low-relief skull and crossbones flanked by scrolls. Inscription on east face 'Here lyeth Anne ye/Wife of William/Hackword Who/Was Buried ye 10th day/of Nov 1718' and on the west face 'herein ye dust I doe/Abide With 4 children/By my riGht (sic) side'.

Listing NGR: NY8857037935

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

NY 8837

38/261 Somerville tomb about 5 metres south of chancel of Church of St. John

GV II

Headstone. Circa 1803. Commemorates Robert Somerville, Presbyterian minister of Ireshopeburn, and Margaret his wife. Signed Jes. Teasdale Sculpt. Slaggyford. Tall fine-grained red sandstone slab, with raised moulded edge; semi-circular top flanked by pyramid finials. Finely-cut letters of varied styles arranged in lines and ovals, straight and curved lines. Top panel has draped urn with sloping cross at left and anchor and rope at right in low-relief.

Listing NGR: NY8856437928

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

NY 8837

38/260 Currah tomb about 4 metres south of Church of St. John

GVII

Headstone. Circa 1789, commemorating William Currah. Sandstone slab about one metre high, with intricately-curved top. Inscribed 'Here the dear Darling of mine Eye/In Mould beneath this Stone doth lye/Not Youth nor Innocence could save/ His Body from the (eroded) Grave/But his triumphant Soul is gone/To Heav'n with Christ to worship (?) God.

Listing NGR: NY8855337929

STANHOPE ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

NY 8837

38/259 Peart tomb about 4 metres south of Church of St. John

GVII

Headstone. Circa 1839, commemorating Isaac Peart. Sandstone slab, with Tudor-arched-pointed top. Inscription to Isaac Peart Esq., of North Shields; postmaster of St. John's Chapel 'upwards of (blank) years'; died aged 75.

Listing NGR: NY8854737929