

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT

Diocese of Bath and Wells

Name of Parish:	Rodney Stoke
Dedication of Church:	St Leonard
Archdeaconry:	Wells
Rural Deanery:	Axbridge
Grade:	I, unidentified C15 chest tomb II*
Conservation Area:	No
Tree Preservation Orders:	None
Date of Church:	C12 origin, largely C15, restored c1879
Local Authority:	Mendip District Council
Church Architect:	Mark Taylor MA(Bld Cons) RIBA AABC Beech Tyldesley, Old Deanery Court Cathedral Green, Wells BA5 2UQ <i>Tel:</i> 01749 673565
Date of Survey:	July 2009
Previous Survey:	Feb 2004 by RJ Chambers RIBA
Weather:	Fair, mostly sunny
Reference in Pevsner:	Appended



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The following is drawn from the Images of England website – corrected (there are many errors) and the short historical notes “Church of St Leonard Rodney Stoke Architectural and Historic features” by FE Booth 1981 and more recent understanding.

C12 origin, largely C15, restored c1879. Coursed and squared rubble, freestone dressings, mostly copper covered roofs. Perpendicular west tower, nave, north porch, chancel, c1480 north chapel, 1879 south chapel (organ chamber/vestry). Three stage tower, embattled, diagonal buttresses containing four bells in a timber frame, west window, west door, string and label with carved angels. Two bay nave, pierced parapet with pinnacles. Gabled porch with a niche for a statue, benched interior with re-used C14 stoup. Chancel embraced by organ chamber and north chapel, known as the Rodney Chapel of c1480, door opening with ogee canopy and niche for statue, pierced parapet with pinnacles. Organ chamber in conforming neo-Perpendicular style. Interior plastered on tile, encaustic tile and flagstone floors. Nave with panelled roof, ornamental bosses, thick moulded ribs; chancel with wagon roof, ornamental bosses, thin moulded ribs, probably C19; Rodney Chapel with roof similar to nave; organ chamber with simple lean-to roof. Moulded tower and chancel arches, C15 piscina under tower. C12 bowl font with gadrooning, Laudian tester. Rood screen dated 1625, though part of base appears C15, richly carved cornice, turned balusters to former rood loft set over – believed to be former Laudian communion rail. C18 altar rails, Laudian altar table and pulpit, the latter originally sited on the south side of the nave and triple decked. C19 choir stalls and organ. Early C20 pews with fine neo-Perpendicular carved ends. Remains of painted text to south wall of nave. Charity plaque under tower. Important memorial sculpture in Rodney chapel and adjacent to altar, to the Rodney family. North side of chancel Sir Thomas Rodney, obit 1417, tomb chest with recumbent effigy in armour; chest with weepers, figures of saints, and the Virgin; open canopy between chancel and Rodney Chapel, cusped arches, tall attic storey with heraldic devices. North side of the Sanctuary Sir John Rodney, obit 1527, tomb chest under a cusped arch with embattled cresting, shields in relief to chest. East wall of the Rodney chapel Anna wife of George Rodney, obit 1630, recumbent alabaster effigy under an arch supported on columns in front of the window. Rodney chapel south wall east end George Rodney, obit 16.., with angels, family heraldry and figure rising. Rodney chapel west wall Edward Rodney, obit 1657 and Lady Frances, 2 busts under a curtained canopy. Late C19 stained glass windows, east window of chancel 1886. Nave SW window the “Thanksgiving window” in celebration of the safe return of all the men and women of Rodney Stoke from WWI.

Against the east churchyard wall there are two early limestone slabs with carving, one particularly noteworthy.

About 4m south of south chapel, is a C15 Chest tomb of dressed limestone. Oblong chest on a moulded plinth; north side with 3 quatrefoil panels, each panel enclosing a blank shield, fourth panel with monogram; east and west ends with further carving; slab top with deep cavetto moulding around its edge, series of blank shields in relief. Possibly to a member of the Rodney family.

MAIN REPORT

Limitations

The inspection was carried out in accordance with the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 from ground level, within the tower and upon the roof over the nave and the north and south chapels.

Woodwork or other parts of the structure which are covered, unexposed or inaccessible have not been inspected and I am, therefore, unable to report that any such part of the building is free from defects.

I have inspected this building as far as possible without causing damage and my report is submitted on the understanding that its scope is limited by the above factors.

This is a general report only and must not be used as a specification for the execution of repairs.

1) SCHEDULE OF WORKS COMPLETED SINCE THE PREVIOUS QUINQUENNIAL REPORT

The following are noted from a summary of works provided by Tim Bibby:

- Improvement of cremated remains area
- Conservation of rainwater goods for nave chancel and both chapels
- Electrical earthing improvements, including removal of asbestos
- Restoration of north west and west churchyard walls

2) GENERAL CONDITION

Generally speaking the building is in good condition having received significant attention to the roofs in the 1980's, the windows in the 1990's and the bells in the early part of this century along with internal redecoration and substantial repairs to the organ, clock and font cover. The parish obviously give careful attention to maintenance.

However, the parapets of the nave and the north chapel are in very poor condition with parts unstable and the tower parapet requires attention to failing pointing and decaying masonry.

A handful of minor repairs are recommended in other places.

EXTERNAL

3) ROOF COVERINGS

The nave and the north and south chapels have low pitched roofs covered with copper sheet with standing seams. There is a slightly spongy feel underfoot, a geotextile underlay perhaps. The slopes drain to copper lined parapet gutters along the north and south edges with catchpits that have side outlets over hopper heads. A précis of the fabric restoration programme prepared by Tim Bibby explains that the nave and chapel roofs were covered with lead which was stolen and in the 1950's the roofs received a temporary covering of asphalt. This had a limited life and by the late 1970's significant water damage was occurring to wall plaster. Grants enabled the roofs to be recovered with copper in 1981.

The south chapel roof has a steeper pitch of approximately 25°, possibly 30°. The flashing is detached from the east abutment, which is not welted.

The nave ridge is 100mm wide covered with copper in sections approximately 1.5 to 2 metres long and welted together. The north-east corner appears to have been re-laid. Standing seams 1 metre east of centre and approximately halfway between that and tower of Belgium roll style. Movement joint perhaps. Copper sheet generally in excellent condition. Parapet gutters each side with steeply sloping inner side. South gutter with central ridge and two catch pits approximately mid-point either side. The north gutter similar with centre ridge offset 2 metres west and western outlet at west end. East abutment formed beneath parapet projecting string course. Some pointing failure along south flashing but not serious. Some pointing failure on west flashing which has received some old mastic at ridge which has hairline cracked.

The chancel is pitched and covered with Welsh slate under a cut stone ridge. Abutments have lead soakers and flashings. The ridge all in good condition with no signs of significant cracking to bedding or perpend mortar. Slates in generally good condition. Small amount of moss which should be cleaned off to prevent blockage of drains. Slates thin, best quality. A couple of broken slates low level west side, one repaired with lead. Lead flashing west side in good condition but slightly loose. Top edge not welted. Fairly sheltered position therefore no work at this time. Slate creasing 6" above flashing variously chipped.

The porch has a plain clay tiled roof under a black terracotta roll top ridge. Abutments are mortared. There is no sign of underfelt or soakers and no guttering such that the original stone channels at ground level still perform as drains. The north abutment is hairline cracked and recently applied. It appears watertight.

The tower roof is low pitched with an east west ridge and covered with cast lead sheet apparently with wood core rolls, draining to lead lined parapet gutters. The lead is of some age. There is graffiti some of which appears to be dated 1880ish. The lightning conductor is bonded to the ridge west side. It seems the flagstaff once sat in the centre of the ridge but this has since been removed and the lead burned to seal over. Similar repair carried out to the former flue position on the north side. There appears to be some hairline cracking in this repair but it does not appear to pond and there seems no reason to be concerned at this stage. The flagstaff appears to be aluminium fitted to the stair turret with iron bolted brackets. These are superficially rusted and would benefit from overhaul, the upper woodblock has slipped out of position. Leadwork generally appears to be in sound

condition. There are one or two hairline cracks in overcloaks close to the ridge. These are unlikely to leak. Overlap at the ridge is short and has been sealed with silicone which has failed and damp woodwork can be seen inside the tower. It would be wise to re-form the ridge with an upstand. Flashings along the west parapet have detached and require re-fixing. The stair turret roof is flat and covered with lead sheet scribed 1856. Leadwork appears to be in satisfactory condition. It has a single lead chute outlet to the south-west.

4) RAINWATER GOODS AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Apart from the tower which has a lead spout to the north and south sides discharging over the grassed ground, the roofs all drain via parapet gutters with copper spouts having a circular bottom outlet over decorative cast iron hoppers and circular cast iron downpipes. The downpipes have shoe outlets discharging over grated gulleys. Paint is dusty which suggests it may be lead based. Pale blue grey colour. Most of the downpipe sections are a modern replacement 'Classic' secured with bolts. A few decorative iron strap fixings have been retained. Generally the goods are in good condition and satisfactory decorative order. They will require repainting and some preparation in areas during the quinquennial. Lead based paint would be preferable but requires a licence as it is a health concern when in poor condition or mishandled. East wall downpipes have no hopper. The north nave downpipes have overflowed and these should be checked for blockages.

5) BELOW GROUND DRAINAGE

Rainwater is carried from modern glazed clay gulleys with circular cast iron gratings through a mixture of clay and pvc pipework to brick honeycomb walled soakaways around the church, apparently several although not all of the cast iron inspection covers were lifted and some may be simply access points for cleaning. There is a soakaway approximately central south side of nave. Further inspection covers are located south-east of south chapel, east of north chapel, due north of nave and a further cover due north of the nave west end. Two or three of the covers were lifted and the soakaways found to be in good working order. Some substantial tree root infiltration occurs near the tower north elevation.

Generally the soakaways appear to be just 3 metres distant from the building, 2 metres east of the north chapel if that is a soakaway and not an inspection cover. Three metres is considered too close by today's standards, 5 metres is the current minimum and in a churchyard, this may be insufficient.

The present drainage system appears to replace an earlier system. The iron grills remain in lias slabs laid as an apron some 450mm wide all the way around the building, replaced with concrete toward the west end, and a pair of stone channels either side of the porch with drilled outlets at the north end. This system appears heavily silted and disused, apart from the porch.

There has been cracking on the south-west corner of the south chapel and it is highly likely the old drainage has been the cause, or related. Recent redecoration and plaster repairs internally show no significant return of the cracking. The silted drain outlet to the concrete apron before the south chapel door, which is bordered by stone kerb, would benefit from forming of a proper drain.

6) PARAPETS AND UPSTAND WALLS

North Chapel Parapet:

C15 pierced parapet with quatrefoils in lozenges and small pinnacles all of limestone. East section in poorest condition, then west, then north. The north section masonry very slightly live – that is pieces are slightly loose. The masonry appears in reasonably sound condition, but it carries the dirt and sulphur pollution from many centuries which has formed a crust on the surface. East parapet masonry in poor condition and several parts loose. Some 2-3mm cracking in centre. Spalling of masonry on outer face and extensively affected by the sulphate crust. West parapet similar but not quite so bad. Pinnacles all appear in reasonable condition.

South chapel parapet:

Of Doultong and C19 similar in design to the north chapel. Generally in satisfactory condition. Some superficial erosion to south side rear where soft bedding occurs. There is a 1mm to hairline fracture through the coping perpend 1 metre east of centre running diagonally through pierced stone beneath and a vertical hairline crack to side of blind stone adjacent. This is above window jamb and evidently structural settlement which is believed to be stable. There is a small hole in the flashing pointing at base which probably requires attention. 2mm tapering down to hairline vertical crack to north side of west pinnacle. Parapet reasonably secure.

Nave parapets:

C15 a colonnade of mullions with trefoil cusping all in Doultong stone with small pinnacles. All appear of the same condition. Pinnacles generally are a replacement, missing from south-east corner and north central. The north-east pinnacle appears less elaborate than original. The remaining stone is fissured. Both western pinnacles missing. The east parapet is in poorest condition, then the south, then the north. North parapet reasonably stable however every stanchion is decayed and some loose. Some are crumbling as a result of the sulphate crusting. The south parapet is slightly live. As the north side, the coping in reasonably sound masonry but stanchions very poor. The east coping is live and the masonry in very poor condition. Coping reasonably sound but several pieces live and a number of hairline cracks. Central pinnacle base variously fissured and vertically cracked, fastened by a tie clad in copper. Leans outward though the upper part renewed plumb. Cracking suggests embedded metal which probably requires removal to prevent further stone loss.

Tower:

See Walling

7) WALLING

The tower:

At the west, of three stages with a plain crenellated parapet. Diagonal buttresses and hexagonal stair turret on the east end of the north face. Stone slab louvres to belfry openings in the upper stage. A single window to the centre stage, west side. West window and west door. Clock dial to centre stage north face. Dressings are Doultong. Walling generally is the Draycott conglomerate with Doultong parapet and plinth. The parapet had corner pinnacles, all of which are missing.

Tower south elevation:

Parapet masonry generally appears live with much of the pointing lost or loose. Copings are moulded and superficially decayed with some spalling and lamination. The large mass of he stone blocks means that they are in a basically safe condition but repairs are needed. Parapet string course much as parapet. Figurative carvings to label stops of sound opening, good condition. Belfry louvres possibly Westmoorland slate, pale grey in good condition with superficial lamination only. Small cracked piece to base east blind tracery, east edge. Appears reasonably secure. Elsewhere the masonry is stable. Some masonry bee holes in upper stage. Stonemasonry and pointing in reasonable condition. The Draycott with little sign of decay. Pointing appears largely present but hairline cracked in many areas. Upper stage buttresses bonded only at top and bottom of stage. Hairline crack at vertical joint but no signs of movement. Some superficial decay to underside of belfry stage string course. Doubling stone of centre stage in poor condition. It appears that repointing is rather too hard and this has caused erosion. Several ashlar bands this section. Two or three openings in joints. Buttresses have several bonding stones, most of which appear to have been added. Much of the pointing which is very fine to the buttress middle stage is washed out but the masonry appears quite stable. There is a fine hairline crack in the centre bonding stone east side, vertical. The lower stage has been repointed apparently with a natural hydraulic lime mortar which appears rather too hard. The Draycott stone appears to continue to decay as a result of the pointing. A couple of open joints at ground level. Plinth ashlar in excellent condition as are the lower stage buttresses.

Tower west elevation:

Pretty much the same condition as the south side. There are some fissures in the parapet coping. Three or four bonding stones to upper stage buttresses and no significant sign of cracking. Much of the upper stage pointing shows a swirl pattern and feathering of some pointing could indicate an earlier render. Middle and lower stage buttresses satisfactory. More original work and no significant cracking. Middle stage masonry as south. Window here with superficial decay of tracery and slight rust jacking damage. Internal ferramenta. Old plain diamond leaded glazing which appears to have received new mortar fillets and is in satisfactory condition. Opening metal casement low level north side in satisfactory condition. Appears to be limewash in soffit of middle stage string course. Probably elsewhere. Figurative carving above west window reasonably stable. Very minor surface decay lower right edge. Lower stage Draycott as middle stage. Mortar repair recently to apex of west window. Three carved angels at string course beneath west window, the central probably a more recent replacement, all three satisfactory. There is a vertical hairline crack beneath the south edge of west window through two courses of ashlar above the door label. Crack does not appear to continue or appear elsewhere significantly.

Tower north elevation:

Stair turret parapet has received repointing recently. Upper stage Draycott pretty much as elsewhere, perhaps here slightly looser pointing. Upper, middle and lower stages of stair turret all similar. Some lost pointing to the fine ashlar joints but nothing significant and masonry all generally in good condition. A little minor decay to some string course sections. Curious square blind opening in centre of centre stage.

Some repointing to parapet masonry but not all the way across. Masonry of parapet generally in satisfactory condition. There is some superficial decay and minor stone loss from central embrasure mouldings. Centre stage as west side. Some algal and moss growth where chute discharge falls at low level and on string course beneath. Clock face in excellent condition. It appears to be new, certainly newly painted and gilded fixed with

several screw/small bolt anchors all around rim to wood plugs or similar. Ordnance Survey benchmark approximately halfway up plinth to west side. Lower stage Draycott in very good condition, only a handful of stones with significant decay. There has been very little repointing. Difficult to tell but the pointing possibly a natural hydraulic lime or Roman cement mix but quite soft. No signs of the swirl pattern. Buttress in generally excellent condition full height. Some washed out joints in plinth where tower chute falls. This area should be cleaned out and repointed at depth. Around the tower and the church generally there is a concrete margin approximately 12" wide. This is broken along the north side of the stair turret revealing a thin cement screed over brickwork perhaps.

Tower east face:

Parapet the worst. Some joints open up to 10mm. Notably to back of southern corner pilaster. Several merlon copings eroding with small pieces of stone that will fall. Upper stage masonry otherwise as elsewhere. Centre stage in reasonable condition. Buttresses all appear in good order, the middle stage having received three or so new bonding blocks each side. These appear in satisfactory condition. There has been some vertical hairline fracturing of the straight joint to northern buttress. The three new bonding blocks are uncracked. However at upper stage string course level, there may be very slight ongoing movement. Note hairline crack in inner lower edge of upper tabling. Middle stage has been repointed prior to most recent pointing. Again, rather too hard but intact with only minor deterioration of Draycott stone at this stage.

Walling generally:

Draycott stone which is roughly squared and coursed with dressings of Doulting. Walls generally have a simple chamfered plinth and decorative parapet. The south chapel is more recent, C19. Here the Draycott stone has been brought to more regular coursing. There is a deeper plinth and in general the design matches the north chapel. Chapel corners have diagonal buttresses. The north porch has plain quoins of large Doulting and a simple coping.

Nave south wall:

Has recently received repointing, c1983. This is a natural hydraulic lime mix, perhaps a little too hard but the work has been well done and there is little sign of failure or Draycott decay. The Draycott stone has suffered in many instances probably from an earlier cementitious pointing. The wall bulges outward some 75mm and is supported by a central buttress. There are no signs of cracking and all appears stable. There are several cracks particularly on the south side in the stone margin and some consideration may be given to pointing these.

South Chapel walls:

These are pointed with weathered and struck profile and a black aggregate. The pointing is hard but generally firmly attached and there appears only minor decay of the Draycott stone. The ashlar is in excellent condition, although there are some minor areas of decay particularly the soffit of south door. There has been some structural settlement of the south-west corner. The movement is manifest with cracks vertically through the central south window running from sill down eastward through plinth and up through hood moulding and eastward through parapet. Joints immediately east of the west buttress appear hairline cracked and pointing is variously lost. A larger crack occurs vertically in the straight joint of west elevation south side of blocked opening continuing up through south end of parapet. Disruption of stone apron at base of buttress suggests settlement of ground and suspicion falls on the drainage, although ground conditions locally may be to

blame. Replacement of the drainage appears to have stabilised the movement. Lower moulding of parapet string course in poor condition. New stone will be needed in due course. South side plinth contains two ventilating stones with matt black painted zinc grilles some 500mm above ground level. Similar vent to east wall. A pair of similar vents in the east chancel wall.

Chancel east wall:

Pointing generally of the mix similar to south chapel and failing. Bedding mortar revealed appears in sound condition. Generally only minor decay to Draycott stone. Plain Doubling coping in sound condition. Some new stone at low level south side. Apex cross in good condition, interesting scroll design probably Victorian. A few holes in base of wall.

North chapel walls:

Pointed in similar style to chancel east wall but at a different time with less black aggregate. Pointing all firmly attached and little sign of Draycott decay. North wall appears pointed in similar manner. Extensively lichen covered. Generally in good condition. There has been some recent repointing to east of window which is satisfactory. Some pointing is detaching around the door and beneath west side window, all fairly minor. One or two holes at base of wall. No significant signs of cracking. Pointing in the angle of west wall and north buttress hairline cracked. More likely failure of pointing than movement. About half of the west wall pointing detaching. Bedding mortar appears to be a good soft lime material earthy buff brown colour.

Nave north wall:

Weathered and struck pointing with black aggregate. A hard mix. Generally firmly attached and very minor Draycott decay. West downpipe has overflowed. Some pointing loss as result.

Porch walls:

Pretty much as nave north. Pointing on east side is remarkably well preserved. Probably Victorian. There is diagonal cracking in the north elevation on the sloping top of kneelers and a tapering hairline crack through the apex of the gate opening. Probably minor historic settlement rather than drainage subsidence although the north-east corner looks suspiciously like it has settled. Fine slender apex cross to north gable probably Victorian in satisfactory condition.

8) EXTERNAL TIMBER AND METALWORK

Doors externally:

The main entrance is the north porch, with outer gates and inner door. The gates are lightweight oak construction with galvanised diamond mesh. Nice blacksmith strap hinges. Parts of the mesh are fairly rusty. The whole would benefit from good preparation and repainting with Hammerite. Oak sound, would benefit from beeswax and turpentine. Ironwork satisfactory. Pintles firmly attached and no signs of significant rusting. Stone masonry sound. Inner porch door; of narrow oak vertical boards bead butt jointed and good condition. Nice blacksmith made strap hinges satisfactory. Nice old latch. Interior of door simply ledged. The arrangement of the lower hinge suggests a replacement door. Stone masonry all in good condition.

West door; vertical oak tongue and grooved bead butt boarding fabricated into an unequal

pair. Fleur-de-lis strap hinges. The bottom pair better than the upper. Bottoms of boards have received scarf repairs and a deep oak weatherboard. The weatherboards are deeply fissured and the southern cracked. Decoration is similar to the south chapel door. Similar treatment is recommended. Upper masonry has received shelter coat and there are some minor repairs below. Masonry satisfactory. Interior of the west door much as the porch.

Chapel south door; of V-jointed vertical oak T & G boards, thin and perhaps inadequately fixed internally. Significant weathering of decoration, a dark brown wood stain perhaps. Replacement softwood weatherboard satisfactory. Conceals decay in bottoms of boards. Is reasonably satisfactory. Woodwork would benefit from further treatment, beeswax and turpentine for example. Good decorative iron strap hinges superficially rusted and in need of repainting. Significant spalling of masonry above door. The protective mouldings encrusted with sulphate probably and as a result, harder than the underlying stone causing failure through freeze thaw and other mechanisms. Cleaning and conservation will prolong the remaining life.

North chapel north door; of oak wide bead butt vertical boards with plain blacksmith made strap hinges and modern handle. Modern softwood weatherboard. The oak is not particularly old. Good condition but would benefit from treatment with beeswax and turpentine. Some rust to the strap hinges which should be redecorated, ideally with a lead based paint. The alkyd oil paint does not endure well. Stone masonry in good condition. There is a hairline crack following the underside of the hood moulding and running down and outside the western jamb stone for 100mm or so. Perhaps more noticeable cracking vertically to outside of eastern upper jamb running up east side of label. Some recent repairs to top and lower west side niche.

9)

WINDOWS

Some good Victorian stained glass; the east window and better the south-eastern nave window. The latter dated 1882. The south-west nave window is also stained, early 20th century and serves as the World War memorial – referred to as the Thanksgiving window as no members of the community who fought lost their lives. Some very good painting. The north nave windows are plain leaded lights retaining early internal ferramenta. The tower west window has a more complex form of ferramenta and the glazing is pastel coloured patterned cast glass, yellow, orange and a blue border. Similar glazing fitted to the north and south chapels, the south with green in lieu of orange. Only the east window has protective mesh, which might be considered for the nave south windows, although mesh is always disfiguring.

Windows internally:

Nave south-west; saddle bars are bronze. At springer level the iron tie rod appears to have been re-tipped. Damaged stone has not been made good and parts of the internal mortar fillet are detaching. Nave south-east; similar. Evident that the bronze saddle bars are a replacement and here the springer tie bar has been re-mortared and re-tipped. Saddle bars of the south chapel windows are substantial iron set diagonally. There is superficial rust on the eastern. When the opportunity presents these should be re-tipped. Saddle bars of the east window are a bronze replacement. Not very well re-mortared. Detached plaster in soffit south side. Ferramenta of the north chapel east window are also diagonally set iron. Here the rust has split the stone. The bars should be re-tipped. Access is extremely difficult, partly concealed behind canopy of Ann Lake's tomb. The northern north chapel

window has only external ferramenta. Ferramenta of both nave north windows have been re-tipped. There is corrosion on the re-tipped parts of the western window. Is this low grade stainless steel or wrought iron? Mortar at the base of the central light appears to have been disturbed by the ferramenta. Ferramenta of the west window has been re-tipped and appears all in satisfactory condition.

Windows externally:

Nave south-west; slight chatter but most of the glazing cement present. Mortar fillets generally are detaching with 30% missing. Upper part tracery has received repair and shelter coat. This is reasonably stable. Some fissuring and minor decay in lower part of tracery. On the whole, reasonably stable for the time being. Nave south-east window; like the previous no protective guarding. Limited repair and shelter coating to upper tracery, here in better condition. An earlier mortar fillet generally intact. Small piece of spalling stone low level west mullion, has been mortared back. Generally satisfactory.

South chapel south window; glazing in good order although the upper light must be under some stress from movement in masonry. Small opening light lower east opening in good order. Requires decoration externally to postpone corrosion. Mortar fillets in excellent condition. Stone masonry also in generally excellent condition apart from the fracturing and disruption caused by settlement. Similar decay from sulphate to underside hood moulding, which also affects underside of parapet string course. South chapel east window; some chatter in north light. Glazing otherwise in generally sound condition. Significant corrosion to vertical sliding vent upper part south light. Requires overhaul and repainting. Mortar missing from perpend beneath mullion. Masonry generally in sound condition, lichen covered. There is some sulphate decay beginning to underside hood moulding.

Chancel east window; guarded with galvanised mesh. Superficially rusty and would benefit from painting with matt black Hammerite. Glazing appears sound. Masonry in generally satisfactory condition. Small amount of superficial decay to soft beds in mullions at three or four positions. No work at this time.

North chapel east window; glazing satisfactory. Minor detachment of mortar fillet low level north side north light. Significant lichen to masonry generally. Small amount of decay to upper part south mullion, also some sulphate type decay low level. Northern mullion fractured through some 450mm from base. This is an old crack and lichen crossing the crack is unfractured. Like the nave south-east the window has lead condensation drain tubes. North chapel north window; significantly rusted external ferramenta. Horizontal bars pierced to receive vertical bars. Remarkably there is no splitting of stone but this cannot be too far away and the ferramenta should be re-tipped with stainless steel. Very rusted vertically sliding vent to top centre light. Opening light beneath in generally good condition requiring redecoration. Stone masonry is much as the eastern chapel window. Glazing all sound.

Nave north east window; fairly new plain leaded light glazing. Mortar fillets all in sound condition. Small piece of burst stone springer level west jamb probably the result of internal rusting ferramenta. Otherwise the masonry appears all in stable condition. There is some dirtying in the sheltered parts and this may lead to sulphate decay. If the opportunity arises, the masonry should be inspected for surface hardening. Nave north-west window; much as the north-east. More dirt and a little more decay to the upper tracery.

West window; glazing appears in good condition. Mortar fillets are relatively new and in good condition. There has been some mortar and stone repair to upper mouldings of hood and the north label. The whole appears satisfactory. Pair vertical opening vents likely to require redecoration during the quinquennium.

10) TOWER INTERIOR

Tower base:

The ceiling is the underside of the ringing chamber floor. Two chamfered elm or oak beams at third points spanning north-south and built into the walls with similarly chamfered timber corbel beams along the north and south walls, returning across the east and west presumably to support floor joists. Beams are painted dark brown, almost black gloss. Between the beams there is a white painted ceiling probably of lath and plaster. Generally the ceiling and beams are in sound condition. There is evidently some beetle activity in the south face of south corbel, with frass caught in cobwebs. These particular timbers have little structural significance. It is however of some concern beetle activity may be present in the bearing ends of the primary beams and it would be helpful if the cleaners were asked to keep an eye out for excess dust/frass. If there has been no investigation of the structure in recent decades, I recommend a few boards are taken up in the ringing chamber and the main beam bearings inspected including a sample of joist bearings.

Tower stair:

Lower door of oak or elm, Mediaeval. Two vertical boards with brattice pieces, square clasp nails and simply decorated strap hinges with plain ledges to interior. Dark brown matt finish externally in good order with probably leather draught sealing in fair order. Interior of door never decorated. Inside the stairs are a Doubling stone newel with considerable wear to each step, typically 60mm but variable. Stairs are adequately surfaced for careful use. Walls are fair faced rubble masonry with some ashlar. Pointing is a soft lime and all generally in good condition. There is a new black nylon rope to the centre newel and hemp through substantial iron eyes to outer wall, all in excellent condition. At approximately one and a half turns more recent mortar has been plastered on to the north-west facet. This appears sound. Substantial shrinkage cracked. At this level in the east cardinal point is vertical hairline crack and some repointing which is slightly loose. Interesting cast iron plate cut to fit step beneath ringing chamber landing, apparently satisfactory condition. It appears to level up a repair to the worn step beneath.

Above ringing chamber floor level construction of lumpier ashlar generally in sound condition with little sign of cracking.

Ringing chamber:

The ceiling is the underside of the bell frame; a massive central oak foundation beam spanning east-west with half width foundation beams against the north and south walls. These beams have had significant beetle activity principally in sapwood. Despite their apparent strength, they appear to have received supplementary support by square section oak beams at third point spanning north-south set on Doubling stone corbels and several galvanised steel cleats, straps and bolts are fitted. The belfry floor consists of a number of very wide oak or elm floorboards, some of age and some replacement rough sawn softwood all in apparently satisfactory condition. Walls are fair faced masonry. There is

an area of tile stitching at low level in centre of east wall and further small area to higher level south side of east wall with some repointing of joints between. There is no sign of further cracking. Some of the pointing is slightly loose but satisfactory. The upper south voussoir of the west window reveal has dropped slightly, this has received new pointing to the apex joint and there is no further sign of cracking. Masonry beneath the west window has received tile stitching and there is no sign of further cracking. Pointing of the west wall is rather poorer but no requirement for work at this time. A band of brickwork vertically in the centre of north wall probably faces the tortoise stove flue. All appears satisfactory. The floor is softwood square edge boarding running north-south covered almost entirely by fitted carpet in two or more layers. The northern 1 metre raised 100mm or so. The floor has a dished profile and is somewhat springy. If there has been no investigation of the substructure in recent decades, I recommend a few boards are taken up and the main beam bearings inspected including a sample of joist bearings.

The clock mechanism is located in the north-west corner encased within a handsome part-glazed cabinet of bead butt pine boarding. The upper glazed section fitted with a low pediment. Mouldings painted matt black. The clock bears a maker's name, George W Tyte, Wells 1896. Inside a sticker states 'tower clock specialist AJ Nichols, 8 Williamson Road, St Andrews, Bristol telephone 0117 9446276'. The clock has recently received electric winding gear housed beneath the clock mechanism. The mechanism appears in excellent order. Entrance door of bead butt vertical pine boards nailed to chamfered ledges with modern T hinges, good condition.

Belfry:

Entrance door of good rebated Doubling stone much as the ringing chamber door but obstructed by bell frame? Hinge batten is all that remains of former door, slightly worm eaten elm or oak. The belfry ceiling is the underside of the tower roof; low pitches formed either side of east-west ridge with hardwood, possibly ash purlins some 80mm x 100mm deep at 450mm centres notched into pre-cambered chamfered oak or elm beams; one central and the east and west supported on wall tops for half their width. Purlins overboarded with square edge softwood on which the lead sheet covering rests without an underlay. Some old water staining along ridge eastern half lesser so to western half. A number of old shakes in central beam otherwise the structure appears all in sound order. Northern bearings of east and west beams have diagonal hardwood supports across the corners. Walls are fair faced masonry all in good condition. No significant signs of cracking. There is a historic crack above the east belfry opening where masonry appears to have settled slightly under the earlier larger arch above. Bird mesh to the belfry openings fills only the lower two thirds. Remarkably there is no evidence of nesting rooks. A loose lamination from an eastern louvre requires removal reasonably urgently before it slips on to the nave roof.

The bell frame is substantial. Of oak and possibly designed for five bells. The four bells are in a line against the west wall swinging east-west. There is an empty pit apparently never fitted with a bell in the south-east corner. The bell would have swung north-south. There are no obvious scars on the walls indicating an earlier frame. The tops of pit sides are cleated to the western rail by bolted wrought iron with square nuts. The east end of the pit sides are tensioned with wrought iron diagonal rods with square bolts over spreaders on the top east arris of east rail. Only the treble to the south is dated, 1909 founded by Llewellyns and James of Bristol. The other three appear older and of a like founding (not L & J), no. 2 perhaps later with no date. The older three retain cannons. All are hung on hardwood headstocks and fitted with independent staples. The tenor has a relatively recent

wheel, the others of matching appearance, much earlier. An old wheel is fixed above the stair tower door in the base of the tower. Sliders are all new. The bearings appear early 20th century. Various notches indicate earlier plain bearings. The tenor is chimed by the clock. Cleating of the foundation beams appears more to do with stiffening up the frame cill beam. Generally speaking the frame appears to be in good order. There is a fair amount of corrosion on some of the iron components and it would be beneficial to de-rust and properly paint these to preserve them. A plaque dated 1957 in the base of the tower records repair and re-hanging of three of the ancient bells, and another dated 2002 stating Whitechapel Bell foundry carried out quarter turning, clapper restoration, re-ropeing and securing the bell frame.

12) ROOF AND CEILING VOIDS

There are shallow inaccessible voids above nave, chancel and both chapel ceilings. Further reference is made in the section on ceilings that follows.

13) ROOF STRUCTURES, CEILINGS

Chancel ceiling:

A shallow semicircular vault of coffered design seven panels long by five from side to side. Equally moulded ribbing and purlins, each intersection with carved floral boss. Boarding appears to be oak possibly tongued and grooved. A grey material can be seen between boards - insulation? Moulded oak wall plates each side with floral carving in soffit. Few old watermarks some 300mm either side of ridge in western half and along western abutment. Otherwise the ceiling appears in good condition. Traces of red paint to east end north wall plate?

Nave ceiling:

A low double pitch heavily constructed with moulded, probably pre-cambered beams and ridge beam single purlin and wall plate each side of matching profile forming seven bays in length and four bays in width. Each panel divided into four by lesser moulded rib and purlin with pierced pendant moulding at intersection. Between these lesser ribs a hardboard panel with approximate 15mm gap all round. Hardboard simply screwed to central rafter. On closer inspection with binoculars, it is clear that there has been a major restoration. Hardboard replaces earlier boarding, the ends of which remain where sawn through. It seems new softwood boarding is fixed above rafters, square edged and a bright metal foil is visible in the gaps – insulation? Many parts of the timber are superficially beetle eaten. Much of the wood has been grained to look like oak. Some bits appear to be softwood but mostly the structure is probably oak. Two or three secondary ribs have dropped. Two of these appear to have been screwed to rafters and it seems the others will have been checked and found secure. The east end of southern primary purlin supported on steel strap. Generally speaking, the structure appears to be satisfactory. It appears water has found a minor leak in the lower west panel of the third bay from west upper half south slope. The lower edge and east side of the hardboard are watermarked and the dark colour suggests currently damp.

Porch ceiling:

All of pine, high collared rafters with semicircular bracing finishing vertically against short struts on the inside face of walls. Simply bead moulded wall plates. V-jointed tongue and

groove sarking board. Bead moulded ridge board. Old watermarking at south ends of wall plate, now dry. Never decorated. Generally excellent condition.

North chapel ceiling:

Low pitched divided into eight panels, four each side of ridge. The structure consists of central cambered beam spanning north-south and two similar, probably half beams to each end, between a ridge beam and wall plates all of matching moulding. There are secondary beams at quarter points forming the eight panels. Each panel is subdivided by a moulded rib and purlin and again the resultant four panels further subdivided into four. Oak boards are laid over the ribbing in some places covering two or more sections. There are numerous minor old watermarks and a crack through the soffit at the centre of the central main beam which has settled slightly. The crack appears to be confined to the lower moulding. The roof appears to have received a recent overhaul and was presumably found structurally sound at that time. There appears to be no significant defect currently. It would be wise for the cleaner to keep an eye out for excess dust and frass under the centre of the main central beam.

South chapel ceiling:

All of varnished pine, a lean-to of light construction. Central chamfered rafter carrying single purlin carrying common rafters at approximately 450mm centres. Sarking board V-jointed softwood with silver foil visible between – more insulation? All appears in satisfactory condition.

15) PARTITIONS, SCREENS & DOORS

Chancel screen:

Of oak. The frieze in Jacobean design inscribed ER 1625 but the work below believed to be earlier. Above a Laudian balustrade with short returns secured to the inner face of the chancel arch with iron straps each end, believed to have been the altar rail. The frieze beam appears to span fully from north to south walls. All appears in good condition. The sole plate which forms the chancel step some 100mm high has historic beetle activity. Satisfactory condition but a notable cavity next to the north door post. The screen received repairs in 1993 when it is understood a slate dpc was inserted beneath the sill.

The tower screen, set toward the west door is of oak and late Victorian appearance in good condition. Bears a plaque dated 1957 recording repair and re-hanging of three of the ancient bells, and another 2002 stating Whitechapel Bell foundry carried out quarter turning, clapper restoration, re-ropeing and securing the bell frame.

16) GROUND FLOOR

Sanctuary floor:

Tiled, probably 19th century. Simple geometric design of red, yellow, grey and black quarry tile incorporating glazed encaustic tiles behind a step of polished Draycott stone. The dais is constructed in similar fashion with a border of incised glazed tile. There has been some movement of northern side of dais where one or two tiles are loose, otherwise the floor is sound. Somewhat grubby.

Chancel floor:

Walkway covered with more cut quarry tile in plain geometric design of off-white, red and black tile with border of glazed encaustic. Tiling along the west end, either side of the north choir stalls and partly to east of south choir stalls loose with some breakage. Tiling alongside choir frontals also disrupted and loose. Ideally, the floor will be re-laid completely. Minor repairs may be necessary in the meantime to prevent tile loss and trip hazards. A tile with the inscription 'DT and CDT' 500mm from communion rail. Choir stalls are floored with softwood inside chamfered oak kerbs some 75mm high. Generally sound.

Nave floor:

Walkways are tiled in simple geometric design of off-white, red and black. Tiling toward to the porch particularly loose but generally the floor in poor condition with several breakages and many sections of loose tile. Pew platforms are of softwood inside oak kerbs set flush with the tiling, in fact slightly below which probably indicates settlement through decay of timber. Many beetle flight holes in oak kerbs and there is no doubt the floors are in poor condition but sufficiently robust for the immediate future.

Within the nave walkway to the porch, there is a former boiler pit approximately 1.5 metres deep and 1 metre wide. The ceiling is a cast iron lay-in grating – the nave floor, in satisfactory condition. The southernmost two of the five sections have broken and been repaired with bolted sections. The walls of the pit are brickwork in satisfactory condition apart from the lower 250mm or so which are sub-soil, slowly crumbling. Supporting render has fallen away. There is no immediate cause for concern but the brickwork is slowly being undermined and requires underpinning. It would be difficult to carry out whilst the old solid fuel burner remains, a cast iron firebox with steel flue running horizontally it seems along nave walkway to the west. Clay pipes lead from small openings in east and west walls. Fresh air enters from the east. There is a glimpse of the joists beneath the north-east pew platform which appear in satisfactory condition. The floor of the chamber appears paved in some manner but deeply covered in debris. There does not appear to be any asbestos. White pieces appear to be former wall plaster.

Tower floor:

The eastern three fifths are tiled in a design framing the font. Tiling generally is sound. Grubby and there is a hollow area south of the font. Cast iron grille in centre of north side on which tortoise stove sits. Fair amount of debris in catchment under grille, otherwise satisfactory. The western two fifths, behind the screen are floored with large lias slabs. These have a typically pitted surface but are otherwise in generally sound condition. There has been settlement or damage in the south-west corner perhaps from falling clock weights.

The porch floor:

Lias as the tower and in sound condition. A 40mm high step down into the nave, otherwise flush thresholds.

The north chapel floor:

Large lias slabs partly covered by rush matting. The slabs are in fair condition, typically pitted and much of the original surface lost but sufficiently stable as a floor. Beneath the rush matting, much of the earlier surface remains. There are two ledger slabs dated 1637 and 1659 respectively, the Rodeney family. The slabs may have been shortened. There is some surface loss to both slabs which otherwise are in good condition.

The south chapel floor:

Softwood boarding square edged and suspended on timber joists. Ventilation for this floor void is visible externally. The floor is in satisfactory if grubby condition.

17) INTERNAL FINISHES

Chancel walls:

Plastered and painted generally. The recent decoration is a sanded limewash it seems, plain white. This is in fair to good condition. Plaster beneath is in variable condition. Particularly upper parts of walls there are sections of lost skim/finishing coat. There is a vertical hairline crack to the east of the south chapel arch, probably where the opening was formed and the junction of new work with earlier. Some recent sign of minor cracking. The north wall is lath and plaster. This is in fairly stable condition but there are several diagonal cracks rising from east to west above the eastern tomb. A dark red paint can be seen in places, notably behind the upper fixing of southern candle bracket to east wall. Most likely to be a Victorian decorative scheme.

North chapel walls:

Plastered and painted. Paint is a finer sand texture to the chancel and probably a modern breathable paint. There have been plaster repairs and generally the plaster is in satisfactory condition. Sections are hollow and there are two or three hairline cracks notably along the plaster edge east side of north window. This runs fully from floor to ceiling.

South chapel walls:

Painted and plastered. The west half has received new plaster and a limewash like decoration which is in sound condition with no signs of cracking other than a hairline vertical crack under the west purlin end. The east half retains an earlier decoration, possibly emulsion. In fair order.

Nave walls:

Plastered and painted with a sand textured plain white coating, not limewash, possibly Classidur. The walls lean outward some 100mm to the south and perhaps just 50mm to the north. There appear to have been some plaster repairs, above the north-east window for example. As with the chancel but to much lesser degree, finishing plaster or earlier layers of decoration are missing in places, particularly shoulder level along south wall. These have simply been painted over. It is evident that there are many layers of under decoration.

There is a painted inscription between the south windows, probably a part of the Ten Commandments some 300mm wide and 500mm high deeply recessed. Some of the coating to which the inscription is applied has fallen away and there is other damage to the plaster – hacking it seems prior to replastering and a dark red colouring. Otherwise the walls and plaster appear to be in fair to good order.

The porch walls:

Roughly squared and randomly coursed Draycott stone with weathered and struck pointing in sound condition. Algal staining generally to the walls, probably condensation borne. Bench seats of masonry each side, to the west of white lias perhaps with some graffiti. Dates of 1842, 1860. Blue lias to the east side without graffiti and some surface decay. Large water stoop in south-west corner in satisfactory condition.

18) FITTINGS, FIXTURES, FURNITURE & MOVABLE ARTICLES

Sanctuary:

- Carved oak altar table, Laudian style dated 1634 and inscribed IWTS on the reverse rail. Good condition. Padlocked to east wall in 1997 via stainless steel shackles to rear legs.
- Pair oak Glastonbury chairs Victorian in appearance, satisfactory.
- Pair wrought iron candle holders screwed to wall. Good condition.
- Communion rail early 18th century in style perhaps earlier. Of oak. A balustrade in two parts with turned newels and balusters screwed to floor through fleur-de-lis brackets extending eastward. Every other baluster missing. Screws require tightening, otherwise all in good order.
- Stone piscina in good order.

Chancel furniture:

- Choir frontals of oak late Victorian perhaps, open panels with cinq-foil cusping on diagonal brackets.
- Choir pews of similar fabrication with open panels to backs. All in good condition.
- Matching readers desk good condition.

North chapel:

- Some modern furniture, stacked plastic steel framed chairs, a folding table, three child's wooden chairs and a small steel legged table.

South chapel:

- Used as the vestry and containing the organ.
- A 1930's style oak veneered wardrobe in fair order.
- Plain green painted sideboard with drawers to left and cupboard to right, fair order.
- Large sheet steel safe.
- One plastic and one wooden chair.
- Behind the organ a collection of former frontals. One of silk with fine embroidery but very poor condition.

Nave:

- Pulpit; located in the north east corner and believed to have been three tier originally in the south east corner. Jacobean style octagonal tub of carved oak over Ham stone plinth. Inside the external wall lined with further panelling, a section at 45° in the north-east corner matching. The north wall panel not. Woodwork all in satisfactory condition. Moulding from top step loose and requires re-fixing. Carpet loose and hazardous.
- Font; located under the tower arch. A semicircular limestone tub possibly integral with octagonal shaft over moulded limestone base with polished blue lias plinth. The bowl boldly carved into a twisted tulip form. Cover of carved wood, Jacobean style eight sided pyramid with octagonal base and carved frieze repaired in 1993. The cover is very heavy and requires two people to move. It is otherwise in satisfactory condition. Stone in excellent condition. Lead lining satisfactory. Lozenge pieces removed from rim to reveal crucifix carvings.
- Two oak lecterns in satisfactory condition. The plainer having some beetle activity in left foot and damage to left side. The more elaborate in remembrance of Howard Hale 1974.

- Lectern of oak with good turned shaft. Slightly loose but satisfactory.
- Tapestry banner on wall bracket to south-west corner of some age but sound.
- The pews all of oak, substantial construction with good carved ends all apparently made between 1902 and 1907. A plaque on the north wall records the carver of each, many members of the Hale family and Evelyn Coleridge Smith, William Dudden, William Brown and Ernest Edwards. The pews are generally in good condition. A few have one or two loose components and two or three may require improved securing since damage may be sustained to electric cabling.

Tower:

- Behind the screen on the north side a curtain conceals a small and a large safe.
- On the south side a modern 'Kompact Kabimet' in fair order used by the flower arrangers.
- In the south-west corner rising full height a brown grained panelled pine box in fair order having once housed the clock weights but now redundant.
- Substantial wrought iron rope guide crossing the west window some 400mm out with eyes for three ropes. A fourth driven into the south wall. Satisfactory condition but redundant.
- Stone piscina to south-east corner of tower in good condition.

20) ORGANS AND OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

A large instrument filling the west half of the south chapel. Whether the organ was built for Rodney Stoke or not seems uncertain. Its presentable face looks east while the console is on the north side. Perhaps the organ has been rotated 90°. The case is oak and Victorian in appearance. Presented pipes are painted with stencilled decoration. The ivory keys are aged, otherwise the whole appears to be in good condition. The tuners book begun 1998 by Roy Chater and completed since December 2006 by B Hooper shows regular tuning but a few quibbles such as loose key ivory and sticking motion. The organ was renovated in 1986.

Organ blowers have been known to contain asbestos. The organ tuner should be asked to confirm whether there is any within the blower and if so whether this is friable. Friable asbestos would present a health hazard.

21) MONUMENTS, TOMBS, PLAQUES ETC

Chancel:

- On the south wall of the sanctuary a white marble on grey slate wall memorial "Tremlett 1846" in sound condition.
- In the north wall of the sanctuary the Easter Sepulchre in which lies the tomb of Sir John Rodeney 1528, possibly also Ann Crofts 1546. A handsome stone façade some 2.5 metres high with panelled plinth, a two centre arch to the recess with pendant trefoil carving and above a dragooned cornice. Octagonal fluted shafts to each side with castellated finial. In the recess just forward of the back is a stone frieze of three panels with heraldic devices of the Rodeney and Croft families. Stonework generally is in good condition. Minor decay along bottom edge. The back of the recess is painted and plastered masonry 100mm or so behind the stone frieze.

Some of the plaster has been removed and a cavity made revealing rubble fill.

- On the north side of the chancel is the tomb of Sir Thomas Rodeney 1471. A substantial stone monument open to the north chapel. Some 3.3 metres high. Plinth with five panels each having figurative relief carving. A two-centre arch to the tomb recess with central cinq-foil and flanking trefoil pendant decoration including two angels. Above a tall frieze of five panels with heraldic devices in low relief topped by crenellations and to each end an octagonal fluted shaft with crenellated finial. The north chapel face has a design similar to the sanctuary tomb and perhaps of that date. The plinth with three panels having low relief figurative carving. Within the recess a recumbent knight. The east end of the frieze has dropped 60mm or so historically. There is no significant sign of current movement, only a faint hairline vertical crack at the abutment of the frieze with the adjoining sanctuary tomb. Masonry generally is in good condition. There is significant evidence of red and some gilding decoration though perhaps not to the figure. It is clear that the north side of the recess was originally sealed and it seems the figure has been slid northward to a more central position once the recess was opened. The west pendant figurative carving is missing from the north side.

North chapel:

- East of the Thomas Rodeney tomb is substantial and lavishly carved tomb to George Rodeney 1651. Approximately 3.5 metres high. The plinth some 1.5 metres high, Doric column to each end supporting a classical frieze and cornice. Beneath a panel divided into three. The central piece containing a slate plaque with inscription. Either side divided into upper and lower panels each depicting various life and death symbols. Above the plinth a broken entablature supported on two outer square panelled columns and two inner corbel brackets. In front of the outer columns putti figures. An heraldic crest surmounts the entablature and to its centre an archangel. On the plinth is a coffin with risen George. Generally the monument is in good condition. Much of the carving retains traces of polychrome work.
- Against the east wall a marble monument to Anne Lakes 1630. A sarcophagus style plinth of white and grey marble, recumbent figure of alabaster, the carving of which is particularly fine -white with grey veining, surmounted by an elaborate white and grey veined alabaster or marble canopy on Ionic columns. The monument appears generally in sound condition. The canopy appears to have undergone recent conservation work. It appears the lower edges of the canopy are built into the east wall as a restraint. Deep voids under the plinth give some concern for stability of the monument as a whole and if these have not been inspected by a conservator, it is strongly recommended they are.
- On the west wall a 17th century style wall memorial some 3.5 metres high. An elaborate cartouche design. A shelf on brackets supporting two oval recesses side by side with male and female figures to left and right recessed respectively. Flanked by angels on scrolls and surmounted by a canopy with drawn curtain. Above the canopy a further small cartouche with heraldic device with leaning male and female figure each side. A lot of polychrome traces. Painted inscription to front of shelf partly missing, beneath an inscribed lias plaque where roughly 50% of the text is just about legible but receding rapidly. If not done so already, this should be recorded. Iron straps to the soffit of the canopy are significantly rusted. There is no significant sign of distress. A plaque on the exit states the tomb is of Sir Edward and Lady Rodeney who died 1657 and she 1659.

South chapel:

- On south wall a polychrome grey stone plaque in memory of Reverend Fagan recording erection of chapel in 1879.

Nave:

- On the south wall there are three modern plaques. The western varnished mahogany in memory of Piers killed during the war 1940 in satisfactory condition.
- Under the western window a new framed explanation of the Thanksgiving window in excellent condition and between the windows, a plaque with figurative tile/mosaic in memory of Barber 1924 mounted on varnished mahogany with gilded edge, satisfactory.
- On the north wall east of door World War II plaque of inscribed oak with carved border above plain varnished oak shelf all satisfactory.
- West of the door a modern framed history of the church and further west a framed record of the pew carvers, both satisfactory.

Tower base:

- On the south wall a painted list of benefactors begun 1724, satisfactory.
- On the north wall hung above the tower door an elm wheel from one of the bells and a framed note recording donors to the 2002 restoration, both satisfactory. The scroll fading, particularly the red lettering.

22) SERVICES INSTALLATIONS GENERALLY

This report and comments are based on a visual examination only and no tests have been undertaken.

23) HEATING INSTALLATION

Heating is provided by electric tubular heaters. Each pew in the nave has its own heater with doubled tubes to the frontals by the north door. A similar arrangement to the choir frontals and within the sanctuary, a triple bank of heaters to north and south sides. The vestry enjoys new portable electric heater as does the north chapel. The tubular heaters are considerably corroded and must be close to the end of their useful life.

There is a cast iron tortoise stove on the north side of the tower which appears in serviceable order although the flue has been sealed at roof level.

An earlier system with fire box remains in unusable condition beneath the nave walkway in the pit by the north door.

The south chapel (vestry) had a fireplace in south-east corner which has been boarded over. The flue crosses over the east window.

24) LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

A three phase electricity supply is brought in via aerial cables attached to the east wall of the chancel, at high level south side of the East window. The live cables may be pvc sheathed but difficult to tell. Probably not, and they are therefore potentially hazardous, particularly to persons carrying ladders. Cables arrive from a pole to north-east fouled by an Elder in the adjoining property and close to the Cedar also in the adjoining property. Cabling enters the south chapel at springer level north-east corner. Earth connection apparently protected by grey pvc soil pipe 1 metre off wall, improved since the last quinquennial.

The distribution board is located in the north-east corner of the south chapel. Heating appears to be supplied via three phases, 400 Volts. Modern MEM panel with MCB fuses last inspected April 2005. Lighting and power to the organ, tower and a socket by the organ are also protected by MCM fuses. Wiring generally is PVC twin and earth some surface fixed, some in white mini trunking. Accessories are a mixture of mainly white MK plastic and a few earlier black Bakelite. In vulnerable areas the cabling is protected by galvanised cover strips. Some effort has been made to conceal heating cabling beneath the pew platforms. Generally cabling is fairly discreet but some cables are visibly surface mounted and wherever possible, the opportunity should be taken to conceal these.

Lighting; consists of modern pendant fittings along the centre of the nave and tower, each a wooden ring with three opal glass shades and compact fluorescent lamps. They appear to be wired by new gold pvc sheathed twin and earth. In the chancel four PAR spotlights at high level on the west wall illuminate the altar and choir stalls. In the north chapel, a track some 1 metre long at high level on the north wall supports three small halogen spotlights illuminating the Lake and west memorials with one general light. The south chapel has a single wall light with GLS lamp. Dedicated wall lights illuminate the pulpit and readers desk.

The lighting is probably just about adequate for reading and to some extent, its dim strength in the north chapel and chancel probably create much charm. However, it is fairly rudimentary.

On inside of clock weight door is emergency lighting test card with monthly entries from 19 January 2002 petering out 15 January 07.

25) AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

None provided.

26) LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR

The tower is provided with two down conductors of 30mm wide bare copper, one to the south-west corner and the other on the north-east corner of the stair turret. Both are in satisfactory condition date stamped 09 with more or less annual date stamps from the 1980's. Fixings are embossed "Dawsons".

Lightning conductors should be tested regularly. EIG produce a useful guide for churches.

They suggest that for a small church every two and a half years is satisfactory.

27) FIRE PRECAUTIONS

There is a 9 litre water extinguisher on wall bracket east of north door and a 2 kg CO₂ extinguisher also on wall bracket to south-east corner of organ casing. Extinguishers are maintained by Bristol Fire, last serviced September 2008. Both fitted with adjacent modern safety signage.

28) DISABLED PROVISION AND ACCESS

There is no hearing loop. This may be desirable to those hard of hearing. The church however is small and audibility of the priest likely to be generally quite good.

Wheelchair access is feasible although there are some difficulties. The footpath is in good condition and without step from the road to the north door but slopes steeply at the south end. The pitch appears 1:7 and steeper at the extreme end. This could be considered hazardous, particularly since there is no level resting area adjacent to the road and poor visibility of oncoming traffic. The entrance gates provide a clear opening of 750mm. The porch gates 930mm. If wheelchair users are likely to visit it would be wise to clarify with the church insurer whether the steepness of the path and proximity to the road are a hazard requiring precautions.

Inside the porch there is a 45mm high step down into the nave and a loose coconut mat. Both would be obstructive to a wheelchair. An alternative mat is relatively easy to provide. Overcoming the step is more difficult since the north door, inward opening, extends to floor level. A temporary timber ramp would probably be adequate.

Inside the floor is level throughout the nave and tower base but position for a wheelchair is limited – the tower base and walkways only. This may provide sufficient space. There is a step approximately 90mm high to the chancel. From the chancel level access is available to the north chapel with a small step across the 730mm wide door opening. Wheelchair access would not be possible to the vestry. Both vestry and north chapel have external doors but there are steps and no footpaths within the churchyard.

29) SAFETY

Refer also organ for precautions with the blower and disabled access for concerns about the steepness of the footpath.

Within the churchyard there are a number of monuments that may quickly become unstable. All of the monuments need to be checked from time to time for safety. A few were noted to require attention and these are listed in the recommendations.

30) BATS

There appear to be bat droppings within the belfry and the upper part of stair turret.

It is an offence to disturb or injure a bat. Should work be needed that may disturb a bat Natural England should be consulted.

CURTILAGE

31) CHURCHYARD

The church is located at the south western edge of the village from where farmland falls away gently to the south-west. The churchyard is small and the church stands across the north end. Adjacent land is roughly level on the east side but 1 m to 1.5 metres below on the west and north sides. The ground is grassed and very well maintained. Recent interments are toward the south end. An area for cremated remains has been formed neatly in the north part immediately north of the tower. This consists of a stone slab bordered square surfaced with gravel into which small memorial tablets are laid. There is a central stone crucifix to the memory of those whose ashes are buried around the stone and whose names are recorded on small bronze plaques affixed to the plinth.

33) MONUMENTS, TOMBS AND VAULTS

There are a good number of headstones, mostly Victorian and mostly south of the church. There are two interesting Draycott stone tablets against the east boundary wall, behind the church. The northern close to the north-east corner of the chapel has a clear inscription for the lower half. The slab generally is in fair condition. Quite thin on the right side. More inscription seems likely to be buried. The southern plaque is due east of the vestry. This is a substantial slab with chamfered rear edges along the top and left side. Curious that the top is not level. The surface is inscribed with an architectural or cruciform design. The surface is somewhat weathered but the stone in remarkably good condition. It appears to be an early piece. Both tablets should be inspected closely by a competent conservator who should advise on the requirement for protection, their likely provenance and provide a detailed record with good photography of the inscriptions.

Notable that at least one slab in the stone margin around the church (at the south corner of the chancel east wall) is a reused memorial tablet.

Approximately 5 metres due south of the vestry is an unidentified limestone chest tomb listed grade II*. It is probably Doultong of fine design with bold heraldic carving to all four sides and shields in the deeply coved top and plinth. The masonry generally is in stable condition but the western third is suffering some movement which has fractured mortar joints and the south-western corner is slightly live. Somerset County Council operate a grant scheme with the St Andrew's Trust for repairs to listed churchyard monuments, offering 95% for grade I & II* monuments and 75% for grade II. It would be beneficial to approach the scheme.

Some 25 metres due south of the vestry door is a collapsed Draycott chest tomb. Only the south side and west end remain standing, precariously. The east end has fallen flat and the top and north side appear to be missing. Some inscription remains on the south face which is in fair order. Difficult to read. It is unfortunate the interior appears to be used as a dumping ground for other broken monuments. However, perhaps this is a reasonable and preferable alternative to disposal.

Several of the larger Victorian headstones are of sandstone with elaborate carving. A few unfortunately are losing their carved face.

There are several crucifix style monuments and a number of headstones with small plinths. These typically become liable to topple as they age and should be checked probably annually for safety. The Charles Tyley monument 1905 of black granite with turned brown granite pilasters due west of the tower is easily toppled. There has been some attempt to re-pin the base with slate packings. This is inadequate for the long term and this stone should be re-set on its base. It is likely that the base should be re-set more firmly in the ground first. Sylvester Hale 1911 white marble headstone west of tower south-west corner is becoming unstable. It appears to be reasonably satisfactory for the time being. Rosina Durk 1925 crucifix requires dowelling to the base, 10 metres south of nave.

This is not a complete survey of the monuments and the parish should make an inspection to check the safety, shortly if not within the last twelve months.

34) BOUNDARY WALLS, LYCHGATES AND FENCING

The west part of the north boundary is a limestone retaining wall approximately .5 metres high above the churchyard and increasingly retaining from the entrance gates toward the west end where it is close to 2 metres in height overall. The wall is coped with Draycott slabs roughly square but undressed. Both coping and walling stonework are in sound condition and recently repointed apparently with a natural hydraulic lime mortar. The north entrance gates are oak with Victorian looking gate hinges on pintles fixed to interesting stone posts which have flared bases. The stone appears to be Draycott. There is a wrought iron overthrow with ivy leaf design in fair order. The lantern housing is missing and paint poor such that rust is now becoming significant. Repainting is required with good attention to preparation and particularly the base of each stanchion. It would be good to see the lantern reinstated. The gates are varnished and in good condition although the varnish is beginning to fail.

The east part of the north boundary consists partly of the outer walls of a shed belonging to the adjoining owner, continuation of the shed wall some 1.5 metres high and at the east end, a garden door to the eastern adjoining property. The wall is of Draycott stone. Stone generally is in fair order but the pointing poor. Masonry is beginning to come loose where mortar is washed out from the south end of the shed and more so from the freestanding wall where the coping is largely lost. The wall leans outward slightly. Pointing is in somewhat better condition on the outer side but appears to be a cement based material. Significant repair is necessary.

The east wall is also of Draycott stone approximately 1.2 metres high. The wall is reasonably plumb and has received repointing with a hydraulic lime mix. A similar mortar used for the coping which is in reasonable condition. Extensive ivy growth above the

northern gate has been cut back and when dead, this should be carefully removed. It may be necessary to make minor repairs to the coping afterward. The central section of the east boundary makes a zigzag and at this point the masonry is in poorer condition but reasonably stable. Grave spoil is piled up at the extreme southern end.

The west boundary wall is a continuation of the north wall approximately 2 metres reducing to 1.5 metres in height at the south end. Wall repointed and in good condition.

35) TREES AND SHRUBS

There are several yew trees and three or four fairly small ornamental trees. The yews are mostly of modest age and rather scruffy condition. The best is located at the north-west corner. The parish evidently work hard to keep on top of deadwood and ivy. Some deadwood appears to require removal from the two yews north of the chapel. There is a fine cedar in the property east of the churchyard with minor limbs reaching almost to the east wall of the church. These present two problems; the entanglement of aerial cables and some dead branches which should be removed for safety. The horse chestnut south-east of the vestry on the east boundary is a poor specimen. It has a deep cruck with heavy ivy overgrowth and bark in poor health. The tree struggles under the cedar. It should be inspected by a good tree surgeon for health. It is likely the crucks will need cleaning out and ivy removing.

Trees generally should be inspected for deadwood.

36) HARDSTANDING AREAS

There is a tarmacadam footpath from the north to the north porch in good condition.

38) LOG BOOK

There is no logbook. Tim Bibby has produced a useful note of work carried out since 1981 and a précis of the fabric restoration programme since the 1950's.

The logbook is an extremely useful record of investigation, repair and alterations to the building, and can be the key to diagnosing defects. It is good to see it being started. Ideally there would be a note of the contractor, architect and any other key particulars.

39) SECURITY

Smartwater warning notice fixed to north porch gates, the west gate pier of the north churchyard entrance, vestry door and yew tree by south churchyard stile.

Access on to the roofs for a thief would be relatively straightforward via the downpipes and the most likely entry route from the south or west. The parish are advised to contact EIG for advice if they have not done so already.

PART 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance

Routine overhaul of roofs at least once a year should include replacement of broken and defective slates, renewal of pointing and wedging of lead flashings when found to be loose, examination and repair if necessary of lead gutters, particularly those where access is difficult.

The eaves gutters, downpipes and gullies should all be regularly cleaned out.

Moss growth should be removed from roof slopes. While this is being carried out, a visual check should be made to ensure that none of the roofing battens are decaying and allowing courses of roof slates to sag.

Repairs

I list below a summary of the repair works required, together with an indication of their urgency and cost. I must emphasize that the costs are given as the broadest of guidelines to the Parish and are not based upon detailed measurements or builders' estimates. Please remember that VAT is chargeable on all repairs (now recoverable under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme) and Architect's fees should be budgeted for in connection with the repairs.

N.B. The Church are reminded that all work on the building requires faculty approval. The Archdeacon should be consulted about all works to the building and its fittings.

If a grant has been received from the Department of the Environment or English Heritage in the past, then English Heritage must be notified of any works proposed, other than routine maintenance.

Architect's specifications and recommendations will be required for faculty repairs.

(I have starred thus * those items of work which could be carried out by voluntary labour of a normal handyman standard, if it is available.)

1. Works required to be done urgently -	£
- Check inside rainwater hoppers and clear any blockage, particularly nave N:	75?
- Investigate/clean out silt from channels and drains beside porch:	75?
- Remove loose lamination from E belfry louvre:	25
- Fix or remove loose carpet to pulpit steps – conservator and carpet rods?:	100?
2. Works required to be done within 12 months -	£
- Clean moss off chancel roof:	75
- Repair/replace cracked slates chancel NW corner:	75
- Conservation repairs to parapets of nave and north chapel:	45000?
- Replace decayed stone at base of vestry chimney (roof level):	350
- Re-fix vestry roof E flashing – securely, also centre S flashing:	100
- Western Power Distribution to prune trees clear of incoming mains and cables:	-
- Point up holes and open joints in base of walls generally:	250
* Make a good digital photographic record of window glazing (stained and painted):	-
- Investigate nave S slope for leak – damp ceiling board?:	250?
- Minor overhaul of pews to fix loose parts and secure to floor:	750
- If not recent conservator to report on voids beneath Anne Lake's tomb:	250

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* Good digital photographic and written record of W N chapel monument inscription:	-
- Check churchyard monuments for stability and make safe as necessary:	?
- Conservator to inspect condition and report on care and repair of 2no. Draycott slabs against E boundary:	500
- Re-set/re-bed on new base Tyley monument W of tower for safety:	500
- Pin Durk crucifix monument to base for safety, 10 m S of nave:	250
- Tree surgeon to remove deadwood from trees – particularly N and E of church:	350
- Good tree surgeon to comment on health of chestnut:	50

3. Works to be done within 5 years -	£
- Repairs to stone/screed margin at base of tower N side:	2500
- Tower parapet stone repairs and repointing:	25000
- Repaint rainwater downpipes and hoppers – in lead paint if previous:	2500
- Conservation repairs to vestry stone masonry (mouldings) and N nave windows:	7500
* Monitor beetle activity (frass dust) in tower ceiling S beam:	-
- If not recently done take up some boards in ringing chamber floor and check structure:	250
- Form new ridge with wood core to tower roof covering and minor leadburning to cracks:	1500
* De-rust and paint metalwork in bell frame:	500
- Overhaul, de-rust and paint flagstaff fixings:	75
- Re-fix W flashing to tower roof – securely:	75
- Treat tower roof door with boiled linseed oil or beeswax and turpentine:	75
- Re-treat woodwork and paint metalwork of S door, N chapel door and W door. Use lead paint:	500
- Investigate drain to small paved area by vestry door and make good as needed:	250?
- Repaint external metalwork of windows – see also re-tipping of ferramenta below:	500
- Paint E window guarding with matt black Hammerite:	150
- Re-tip external ferramenta with non-ferrous:	3500
- Repaint N porch gate mesh with matt black Hammerite, beeswax and turpentine wood:	150
- Re-tip internal ferramenta – N chapel and stonework repairs. Access?:	1500+?
- Repairs (under pinning) to boiler pit walling beneath nave floor:	500
- If not recently obtain conservator's report on S nave wall painting:	250
* Monitor N chapel ceiling for beetle activity and cracking at centre of beam:	-
- Tighten floor fixing screws of communion rail:	25
- Assess value and condition of altar frontals. Repair as necessary:	?
- Re-fix loose stone piece at top of pulpit steps – conservator:	25
- Grant aided repairs to listed chest tomb, also Draycott stone chest tomb 20 m further south:	4000
- Repaint overthrow to churchyard gates. Replace lantern?:	250+?
- Major repair and repointing with new coping to E half of N boundary:	5000?

4. Works beyond 5 years -	£
- Relaying of chancel and nave floor tiling:	2500?
- Pew platform repairs (rebuilding):	10000?
- Renew the heating (electric):	15000?

Signature of Architect

Date

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- A Any electrical installation should be tested at least every quinquennium by a registered NICEIC electrician, and a resistance and earth continuity test should be obtained on all circuits. The engineer's test report should be kept with the church log book. This present report is based upon a visual inspection of the main switchboard and of certain sections of the wiring selected at random, without the use of instruments.
- B Any lightning conductor should be tested every quinquennium in accordance with the current British Standard by a competent engineer, and the record of the test results and conditions should be kept with the church log book.
- C A proper examination and test should be made of the heating apparatus by a qualified engineer, each summer before the heating season begins.
- D A minimum of two water type fire extinguishers (sited adjacent to each exit) should be provided plus additional special extinguishers for the organ and boiler house, as detailed below. Large churches will require more extinguishers. As a general rule of thumb, one water extinguisher should be provided for every 250 square metres of floor area.
Summary:

<i>Location -</i>	<i>Type of Extinguisher -</i>
General area:	Water
Organ:	CO ₂
Boiler House –	
Solid fuel:	Water
Gas fired:	Dry Powder
Oil fired:	Foam (or dry powder if electricity supply to boiler room cannot easily be isolated)

All extinguishers should be inspected annually by a competent engineer to ensure they are in good working order. Further advice can be obtained from the fire prevention officer of the local fire brigade and from your insurers.

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- E This is a summary report only, as it is required by the Inspection of Churches Measure; it is not a specification for the execution of the work and must not be used as such. The professional adviser is willing to advise the PCC on implementing the recommendations, and will if so requested prepare a specification, seek tenders and oversee the repairs.
- F Although the Measure requires the church to be inspected every five years, it should be realised that serious trouble may develop in between these surveys if minor defects are left unattended. Churchwardens are required by the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 to make an annual inspection of the fabric and furnishings of the church, and to prepare a report for consideration by the meeting of the PCC before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This then must be presented with any amendments made by the PCC, to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. **The PCC are strongly advised to enter into contract with a local builder for the cleaning-out of gutters and downpipes twice a year.**
- Further guidance on the inspection and the statutory responsibilities are contained in How To Look After Your Church. The Churchwarden's Year gives general guidance on routine inspections and house keeping, and general guidance on cleaning is given in Handle with Prayer, both published for the CCC by Church House Publishing.
- G The PCC are reminded that insurance cover should be index-linked, so that adequate cover is maintained against inflation of building costs. Contact should be made with the insurance company to ensure that insurance cover is adequate.
- H The repairs recommended in the report will (with the exception of some minor maintenance items) be subject to the faculty jurisdiction.
- I Woodwork or other parts of the building that are covered, unexposed or inaccessible have not been inspected. The adviser cannot therefore report that any such part of the building is free from defect.

This appendix is based on A Guide for the Quinquennial Inspection of Churches, Diocese of Birmingham, 1993.

Reference in Pevsner:

RODNEY STOKE

4050

ST LEONARD. The interest of the church lies in the Rodney monuments. Otherwise there is not much to be looked at. Plain w tower with diagonal buttresses and battlements. w door with a string-course above which is enriched by three angel-busts. w window of four lights, two-light window above. All these have hood-moulds with figured stops. Two-light bell-openings. Three-bay nave with pierced arcaded parapet and pinnacles, N and S chapels with pierced parapet (quatrefoils in lozenges) and pinnacles. The N chapel is original, the S

chapel c.19. — Jacobean the Screen, the Pulpit and the Font-Cover. The SCREEN has the date 1625. It is still built on the principles of Perp screens, i.e. with one-light sections ending in fancy arches and even with foliage and monsters in friezes. There is a rood-loft too of turned balusters carrying little arches. — ALTAR TABLE, dated 1634. — PULPIT with two tiers of short blank arches and FONT COVER of the same time. — PLATE, Chalice and Cover 1573; Plate 1806; Tankard 1807. — MONUMENTS. They are all of members of the Rodney family and all in or near their family chapel. In the chancel Sir John Rodney † 1527. Rearranged and now consisting of a cusped Tudor arch with embattled cresting and under the arch not a tomb-chest but, as it were, one rendered in shallow relief, with three shields on. — Sir Thomas Rodney † 1471. Tomb-chest between chancel and family chapel. On the chest towards the chancel five small figures, towards the chapel three in relief on shields. In the middle a group of the Virgin, Christ, and St Anne, on the l. St Erasmus. The effigy in armour, recumbent. Four-centred arch with two angels as the main cusps towards the chancel. Tall attic with fancifully shaped shields; embattled cresting. — Anne Lakes † 1630. Recumbent alabaster effigy below a thin arch on columns. Inside the arch stars and clouds. — George Rodney † 1651. Big plinth. Demi-figure rising from the coffin, wrapped in the shroud. Child angels l. and r. A third angel, on clouds, blows the trumpet above in the open segmental pediment. — Sir Edward Rodney † 1657 (father of George Rodney) and his wife. Two busts in oval recesses. Angels seated l. and r. A third angel in clouds above. The whole under a canopy with pulled-up curtains. Home-spun, as is the previous monument too.