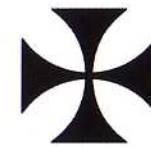




St Lawrence Church, Warkworth

Restoration Appeal

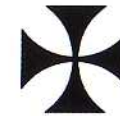




ENGLISH HERITAGE SAYS WE HAVE A PROBLEM

Extract from Register of Buildings at Risk 2007

- Priority:** A (New entry)
- Designation:** Listed Grade 1, Conservation Area.
- Condition:** Very bad. Occupied.
- Summary:** Parish church with early 12th Century nave and chancel.....The north wall is an unusually complete Norman survival but is leaning outwards. The movement is now accelerating and has reached a critical point where urgent action is required.



The Church was built on ground consisting of alluvial deposits with weak load-bearing strengths. Trial bore holes have found solid rock at 18 metres.

It is evident from the two late mediaeval stepped buttresses at the West end that the North wall was already showing signs of settlement. The corner has dropped vertically through its own weight. Adding massive buttresses probably exacerbated the problem. It becomes more obvious looking at the centre of the wall that rotational movement towards the North is now the key factor. The recent Engineer's report showed that this movement is active and accelerating.

Only the high standard of the original stonework and the re-modelling of the wall head in the 1860s have prevented partial collapse. Investigation into the extent of the physical deformation in 1968 can be compared with the readings of 2006. The comparison makes uncomfortable reading – whilst the total deformation since construction in the 12th Century is 490mm, the wall has moved 49mm since 1968.

The North Wall of the Nave - The Solution

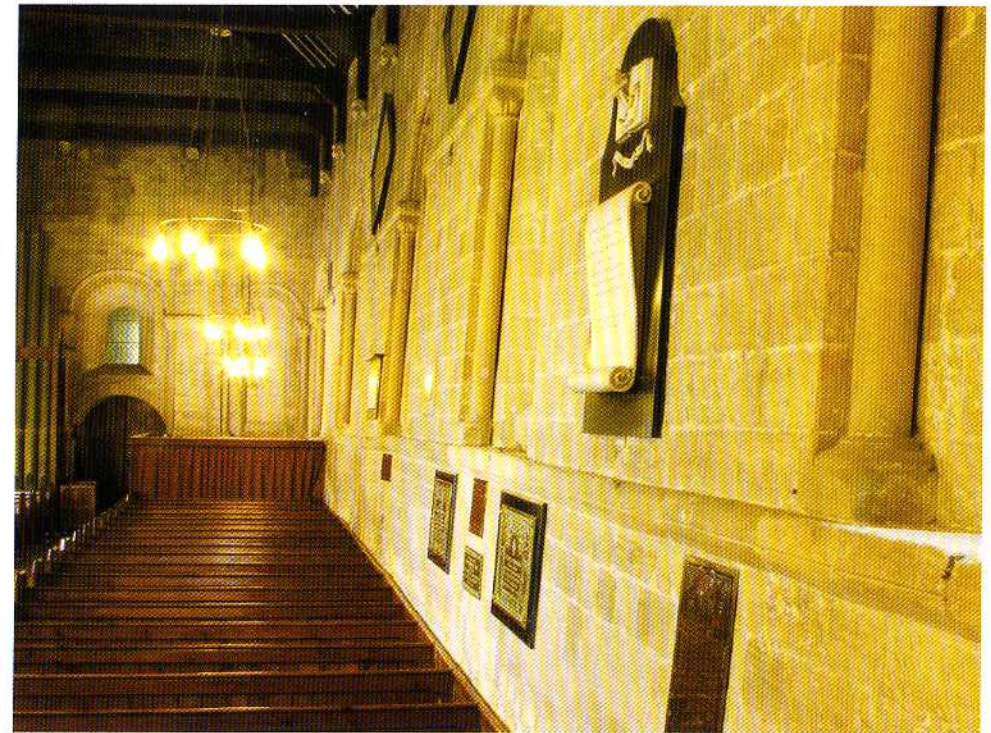
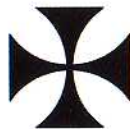
The recent Structural Engineering report sets out the results of investigations into the deformation of the North Wall of the Nave and related movement in other parts of the structure of the Nave and South Aisle. The report emphasised the compelling urgency to stabilise the structure.

The preferred solution that emerged from meetings with Architects, Engineers and English Heritage is one of discreet invisible intervention that will preserve the fabric of the North Wall from further rotational movement but allow it to remain fully visible in its present form.

This will involve the boring of piles down to the bedrock 18 metres through the soft alluvial deposits and the construction of pile caps to receive the heavily reinforced base of massive L-shaped concrete columns, built into the thickness of the wall behind the flat pilasters between the windows.

The process will necessitate the unpicking of the pilasters and reinstatement of masonry after the columns are formed. A massive concrete ring beam will connect the tops of the columns and resist further distortion at the wall head.

The masonry will need reinforcement across the inside face of the wall and through its thickness so that it is strong enough to engage with the columns.



How Can I help?

- Offer your prayers & practical support to our appeal.
- Participate in Parish fundraising activities.
- Join the 'Friends of Warkworth Church' scheme.
- Welcome visitors to the Church and encourage them to support us.
- Regular giftaided donations. Bank details available.
- One-off giftaided donation.
- Cash or cheque donation – Pay PCC Warkworth.
- Remember St Lawrence Church in your will – very tax efficient for one's beneficiaries.

We need your support to:

- Help us to raise funds to stabilise the North Wall.
- Enable us to plan future work to maintain this ancient church.

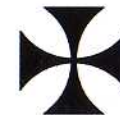
St Lawrence Church

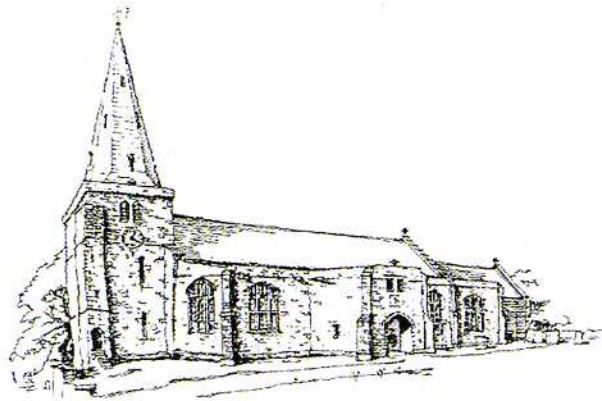
- 737 AD Saxon Church founded by Ceolwulf (position of the apse is marked by a cross on floor at chancel arch).
- 1120 AD Present Church commenced - three sides of the nave and the chancel are still intact.
- 1200 AD Tower built to below belfry level.
- 13th Cent. Buttressing to the north wall became necessary and the vestry was added.
- 14th Cent. Belfry and Spire built.
- 15th Cent. South Aisle and Porch with Parvis above were built.
- 1710 Altar Rails added.
- 1860 Last major refurbishment and alterations.
- 2000-04 Internal improvements and disabled access.
- 2005 Repaired and renewed floor at crossing and realigned pulpit to improve sightlines.
- 2006 Re-pointed spire and upper tower. Installed water deflecting hoppers inside each opening.



The Church in the Community

- Population of Warkworth is approximately 2000. Electoral roll 155. Weekly attendance (all services) averaging 100.
- Village demographics changing, with an elderly population of locals and newcomers being supplemented by young families.
- Warkworth Church of England First School has a roll of 56. Pre-school is almost full at 22 with 30 children approaching their 2nd birthday shortly. 'The Sunday Bunch' has attracted 20 children.
- St Lawrence Church has always been geographically, visually, culturally and spiritually at the heart of Warkworth.
- Warkworth with its Castle and Church, as well as many other attractions, is a major and developing tourist destination. Tourists visit St Lawrence Church for services, spiritual refreshment, historical and general interest, attendance at events, and shelter.
- St Lawrence Church is a destination for many school visits ranging from Key Stage 1 to 'A level' students and adult special interest groups. They come for historical, cultural and social instruction and reports indicate an increasing interest in this aspect of learning.
- The Church Building has for centuries been a multi-use community resource and it is our intention to build upon this tradition by maintaining the fabric as well as meeting modern legislative and expected standards.
- Many types of events are held in the Church – religious, cultural, educational and recreational: Fairs, Lunches, Concerts, Plays, Exhibitions and Flower Festivals. Some are fund-raising, but all are pastoral, socially inclusive and cohesive in the community.





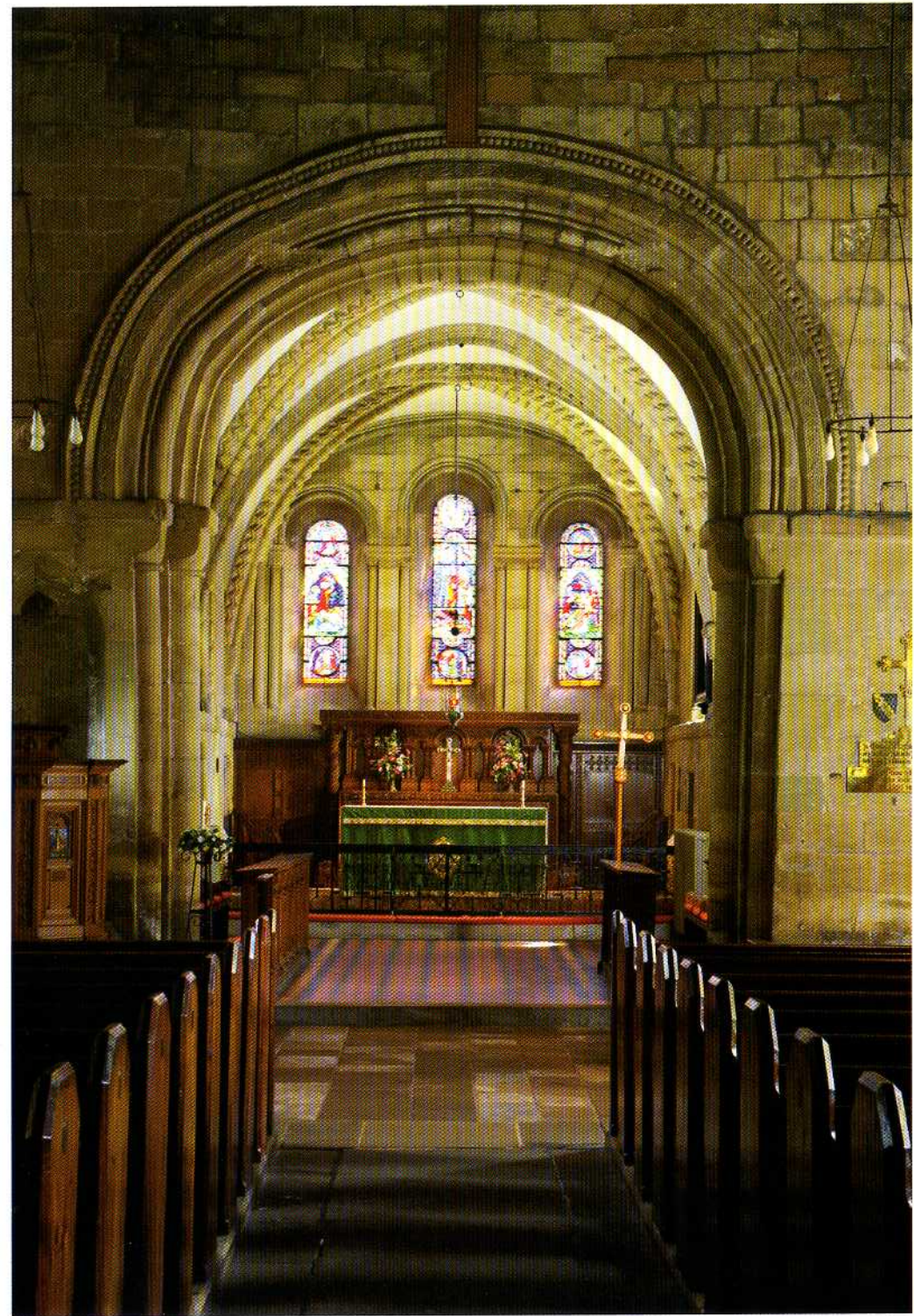
Friends of Warkworth Church

The Church of St. Lawrence, Warkworth is a magnificent building. Standing at the heart of the village, it serves not only as a place of prayer and worship but also as a venue for many other events in the life of the community.

Without question, it is an essential part of the heritage and identity of the village of Warkworth, providing a familiar and reassuring landmark for residents as well as a place of peace and tranquility for the thousands of visitors and pilgrims who come to Warkworth each year.

Day to day running costs to sustain the work and worship of the Church remain the responsibility of the church members. However, the major project of securing and stabilising the North Wall and the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the building will require the support of a much wider group of friends and other interested parties.

Please think about joining us today in helping to preserve this beautiful Church for future generations.



If you are interested in becoming a Friend please contact:

The Friends of Warkworth Church
c/o The Vicarage
See address below

For details on how to donate money to the appeal, please contact:

The Reverend Canon Janet Brearley – Vicar

The Vicarage
11, Dial Place
Warkworth
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 0UR
Phone 01665 711217
E-mail: jmbrearley@stlawrence-church.org.uk

Andy Webber – Chairman, Restoration Appeal Committee

Middle Barn
Old Helsay
Warkworth
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 0SN
Phone 01665 713439
E-mail: acwebber@btinternet.com

Giftaid envelopes are available in Church or from the above

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Acknowledgements

Patrons of the Appeal

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.
The Right Reverend Martin Wharton Bishop of Newcastle.
The Right Hon Alan Beith MP.
Mr Timothy Kirkhope MEP.
Mrs Fiona Hall MEP.

Architect to St Lawrence Church

Mr Robin Dower MA, BArch, DipLD, RIBA, ALI, AABC.
Partner of Spence & Dower Chartered Architects.

Structural Engineer to St Lawrence Church

Mr Alfred March BSc, CEng, MICE, MIHBC.
Director of Patrick Parsons Limited Consulting Engineers.



Sanderson Young are proud to
support the restoration of
St Lawrence Church

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