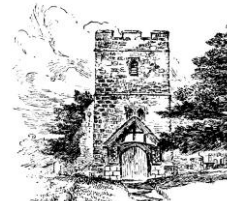




FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES

Annual Report and Newsletter 2019

www.friendslbc.org.uk



Fabric Report 2019



Broomfield church tower under repair

This year although we have put on some splendid events (more of which on page 6) to raise funds, we have focussed very much on supporting the maintenance of both of our churches both inside and out with substantial donations.

At Broomfield the long awaited refurbishment of the tower stonework is at last in progress. The ragstone tower is classed as "late medieval" – it was probably built in the 13th Century – and its stones, which are predominantly Kentish ragstone, have in places worn away under the years of weather. As well as replacement of badly worn stones the work will include replacing external iron reinforcing bars on some of the tower windows with internal bronze supports; this is because as the iron rusts it splits the surrounding stonework.

Another factor is the pointing between the stones; this was renewed as part of major works in 1879, but with a rather soft mix which is crumbling away, so the whole tower needs re-pointing.

Finally, to avoid water damage due to blockages in the long Victorian gutter downpipes, these are being replaced with spouts to keep rainwater away from the walls – much as the original builders would have designed it.

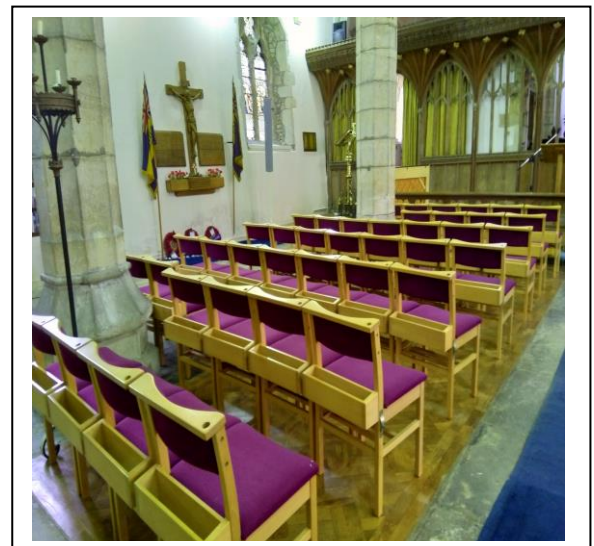
The project is costing a lot, over £72,000, to which the Friends have contributed £20,000 with more funds coming from the Friends of Kent Churches and various voluntary efforts like the Ride and Stride initiative.

The work started in April but it will probably be well into the Autumn before it is finished, partly due to long delivery periods on the special replacement stones.

But that is not all! The Friends have also contributed towards the replacement in Leeds of the old chairs in the church with some splendid newer ones pictured below and currently we are working with the PCC to review the heating in Leeds church with a view to hopefully helping towards the installation of a new system early next year.

And finally one of our Committee members has personally paid for some new underlay for the carpet in Broomfield church to keep it looking beautiful, what a wonderful gift!

Judi Taylor



Some of the very smart replacement chairs in Leeds church