

*Church & Tower Restoration
Project Update July 2025*



St Laurence Church
*'Balancing heritage with
function'*



We have made great progress, since our last update in April 2025. The PCC Fabric Subcommittee have continued to work incredibly hard to support the project, every step of the way.



The Tower is now out of bounds! All items that could be damaged by water or falling debris have been removed and a notice has been placed on the door allowing no unauthorised entry. On the outside of the tower, the scaffolding has been completed and covered with Monarflex sheeting. This has enabled the builders access to the outside of the tower, and they have now removed all the wooden shingles, the vertical and horizontal boarding and the clay tiles. All the work was undertaken in the presence of bat surveyors. The structural surveyor's report on the underlying 14th C oak frame indicates that it remains in good condition, with only minor repairs required. Some of the old shingles that have been removed from the roof have been kept and may be either sold or used for an exhibition at a future date. The replacement 'shingles' are termed "shakes" as they are made of oak.

Updates since April 2025

- **Doors to the tower** – Various options have been considered and several members of the Tower Project Team (TPT) visited St Mary's Church in Loughton to view similar full glass doors in situ and to seek information to enable an understanding of whether these function in a similar way to doors that are oak framed with glass panels. On balance, it seems that either would function well though the oak framed glass doors offer better insulation. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) have indicated that they prefer oak framed glass doors. Cost options are to be obtained for consideration. A faculty will be applied for.
- **The Shed**, which is to provide additional storage in the church grounds may require planning / listed building consent. If necessary, this will be obtained before a faculty is applied for.
- **The DAC** have approved the faculty in respect of lighting the of the church path and lychgate, which will improve safety of access to and from the church.
- **Media Guidelines have been provided by Sean Wood.** The TPT are in unanimous agreement that the guidelines are an excellent piece of work. It has been agreed that the logo will show the tower, with the preference being for a darker colour palette and Knotwork graphics.
- **Involvement of Local Youth Organisations and the school** - are under discussion. The school will aim to achieve Key Stage 1 and 2 educational targets through their involvement.
- **Extra Costs**, which are in addition to the original budget, have arisen from the requirement to provide additional privacy to the church neighbour whilst the scaffolding is in place; also, for additional insurance which is required by our insurers, Ecclesiastical, during the building works.
- **A photo log** of all the building work over the next 6 months will be maintained



Please pray for: The TPT as they lead the project; Managing the extra costs arising as the project progresses; The timing of the project.