

PROJECT UPDATE

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ST ODULPH'S CHURCH PILLATON, CORNWALL

**Le Page Architects Receive Runner-Up in
King of Prussia's Gold Medal Award for Restoration Work**

Featured in Issue 143 of *Church Building & Heritage Review*, the restoration of St Odulph's Church in Pillaton has now reached completion after the church was struck by lightning on a snowy January night one year ago.

In October, Le Page Architects submitted their entry to the King of Prussia's Gold Medal Award, which is issued for innovative, high quality repair architecture. The medal is awarded to the architect, chartered surveyor

or practice responsible for the scheme of church repair which is judged to have most successfully overcome the greatest aesthetic or technical challenge. Whilst narrowly missing out on the award of the Gold Medal itself, Le Page Architects were delighted to be awarded the rare Runner-Up, only awarded occasionally and at the judges' discretion.

After the devastation which met the villagers in January, it was discovered that the lightning



blast had caused huge blocks of stone to crash through the church roof and other masonry fragments to be scattered throughout the churchyard and surrounding fields. Amanda Le Page stated that "it has been really satisfying that the repair and restoration of the church has been achieved in such a short time. The church looks complete once more after the north-east pinnacle was pieced together like a giant jigsaw, re-using as much recovered original stonework as possible."

The repairs at St Odulph's were completed in late October, in time for the parishioners to gather in their church on Remembrance Sunday for the first service since the strike. The bells were rung for the first time in almost 10 months.

English Heritage and parishioners praised the dedication and professionalism of the team of experts, led by Simon Crosbie from Le Page Architects, throughout the restoration process.

Photographs by Richard Downer,
<http://www.richarddowner.co.uk>

The Pillaton Village Newsletter praised everyone involved, saying that "a really dedicated and highly professional team of craftsmen restore[d] our church to its former glory", and English Heritage added that the resounding success of the repairs was also due to the way everyone involved in the project pulled together. ■

Part Two of the diary of restoration works at Pillaton Church will be featured in Issue 146 (March/April) of Church Building & Heritage Review.



St Odulph, Pillaton Lightning Repair Works

After devastating lightning strike damage to St Odulph's Church in Pillaton, Cornwall, in January 2013 Le Page Architects were commissioned to undertake a systematic stabilisation and restoration of the historic medieval Grade I listed building. Simon Crosbie led a team of engineers, stonemasons and contractors on a nine-month project to repair and reconstruct the internal and external fabric of the building. The extensive nine-month restoration project encompassed work on the stonework, roof trusses, leadwork, window heads, plasterwork and interior fabric of the church, all of which had been severely damaged by the debris. The north-east tower pinnacle was completely destroyed. The pinnacle stone pieces were painstakingly gathered and reassembled in the stonemason's yard as a 3D jigsaw, in order to enable a dry-built assessment of the required restoration and remedial works.

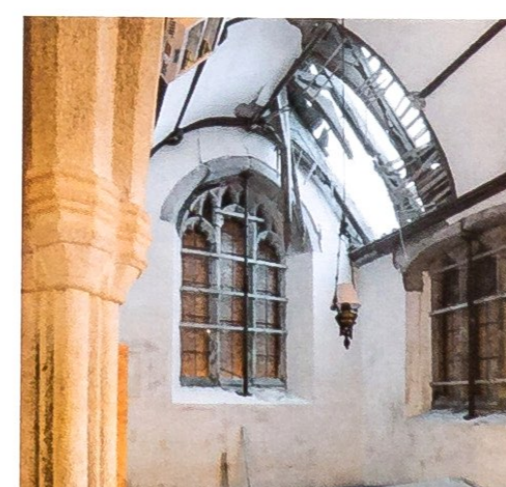
Once on site the stonemasons sympathetically replaced missing or stones too damaged to reuse with Cornish granite all lifted up to the tower via a specialist scaffolding and hoist which ensured the church was weather protected for the duration of the contract.

Careful intervention and connection of the new and mediaeval timbers were detailed so as to retain the mediaeval structure wherever possible.

The lead roof was severely damaged by the falling granite and so whilst retaining the bells in place both the oak roof and leadwork over it was all carefully repaired.

The mediaeval curved ceiling has been re-plastered using traditional methods and materials matching that which was lost. This included taking moulds of the bosses and recasting them to exact replacements.

Internally Victorian pews and tiled floor were damaged by falling granite and these have been repaired but with a commemorative floor plaque set into the floor.



Le Page Architects

St Odulph, Pillaton
Lightning Repair Works

Photographs of the work nearing completion.

