

St Lawrence Chaple – Warminster

Masonry condition survey

20th October 2025-- Nigel Goodenough for Albion Stonemasons

The masonry of St Lawrence Chaple is in excellent condition with very few recommendations for repair or replacement.



It is constructed of varying beds and sources of Oolitic stone from the Bath area for the dressings and carvings with the wall faces being finished with small modules of Greenstone as is the local vernacular.

All elevations have, over various times, been repointed with hard cementitious mortar, which is not ideal, however there are little signs of erosion around the edges of the softer dressings as would be expected with this practice.



All elevations would benefit from a light conservation clean, subject approval, which may uncover some minor repointing. If this was to be undertaken consideration would be needed for the dark sooty deposits around the weather dressing particularly string courses, copings and hood mouldings that will require poulticing to remove this discolouration.

North Elevation

Moss on some surfaces, minor open joint repointing and defrassing of a few Bath stone dressings to windows.

Some minor rust staining from ferrous fixings of the window guards.

Some open joints to high level and porch copings.

The porch roof tile abutment with the nave and the porch gable is a mortar fillet not leadwork which may cause issues in the future, but water ingress staining was not apparent.



The west side of the porch and a smaller area of the east side appear to have been recently repointed in grey cement which stands out from other areas.



Porch requires guttering (noted elsewhere) by specialist.

Some lower stones to the tower quoins and buttresses are showing wear but are still functioning.

West Elevation

This elevation mainly of the tower has been repointed in a style called ribbon pointing where the mortar stands proud of the stones that it surrounds. There appears to be erosion of stones, particularly to the central voussoirs to the lower window and second offset areas to the N/W and S/W buttresses. This material should be removed to arrest this decay.



There are possibly redundant electrical fittings and wires attached to the N/W buttress.

South Elevation

Leaded bell rope cover to be inspected by lead work specialist.

Minor pointing works required to stair wall ashlar.

Generally, the south elevation is in a similar good condition to the north with a few joints requiring pointing only.

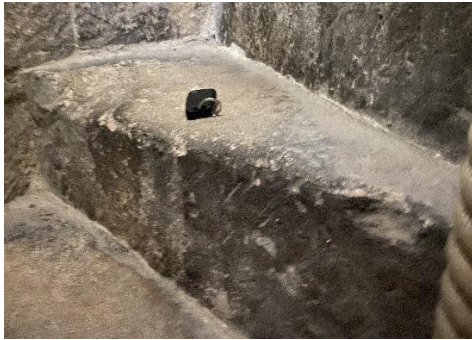
There is a water stain running down the wall where the tower masonry abuts the nave and is caused by the discharge of water from the surface of the offset, this is does not appear to be causing damage.



East elevation.

Minor pointing only.

Tower staircase There are 7 nr stone treads leading up to the clock chamber that are considered boarder line candidates for indent replacement, as has been previously undertaken further up, due to worn surfaces.



Exterior Cobles

The mortar between the cobles to the sides of the paved path leading up to the porch has decayed to the point of needing to be replaced. Approximately 10m2.



Cottage

There are some minor pointing works mainly to the low-level east elevation required.



High level

Following the drone survey there were no apparent issues detected.

Nigel Goodenough

Albion Stonemasons