



Chartered Architects

# NYE SAUNDERS LLP

## ST. PAULS CHURCH, Addlestone– reconstruction of early 19th Century church, (non Listed), after major fire

Client – PCC St Paul's Addlestone

As inspecting architects, we received a call from the incumbent days before Christmas 2003 to tell us that the church had suffered a major fire of an extent such that there were concerns for the stability of the entire structure. A visit was made the following day and the church was a sad sight with the tower a brick shell, the walls of the nave standing but the roof completely collapsed other than the remains of queen post trusses and the chancel and side chapel standing and roofed but with roofs damaged and interiors heavily soot damaged.

The practice oversaw the subsequent reconstruction of the church involving conservation of existing sound fabric as far as possible, together with the development of a design for the reconstructed parts suitable for 21st century expectations.

The conservation work carried out included on the tower a new lead lined flat roof installed on a timber decking to replace the original four enormous stone slabs which had been used as the roof structure. Masonry repairs included cutting out cracked brickwork and piecing in new salvaged from inside the tower, introducing stainless reinforcing straps into brickwork joints to the structural engineer's design and repointing in lime mortar. Some stone repairs were necessary and these involved complete removal and replacement of damaged sections.

In the nave whilst generally completely remodelled to the new design, the walls were lime plastered and limewashed and stained glass was saved and reused in new panels. In the chancel the rood screen was cleaned and decorations reinstated by conservators, (Wall Paintings Workshop), as were the painted linen panels in the apse. Walls were cleaned and any plaster repairs carried out in lime plaster before redecoration generally in limewash. Ceiling repairs including under the repaired roof areas were also carried out in lime plaster on stainless steel lathing.

Externally brickwork repairs were carried out in a few areas as per the tower and the roofs recovered using Welsh slate with lead parapet gutters set out similarly to the original but to lead bay lengths as current LDA recommendations. Overflows were also incorporated – overflowing lead parapet gutters being a common cause of problems in storm conditions on many of the churches which I inspect.

An initial enabling works contract let to Sexton Demolition included putting up a temporary roof, making the buildings safe and removing debris under our site direction. The insurer, church members and we were so impressed with Sexton's performance that they were asked to continue on site whilst development proposals were being formulated and they carried out the management of tower brickwork repairs, tower roof installation and floor slab installation in the nave.

The main contract works were let on the basis of two phased contracts, eventually both being awarded to Deeks & Steere Ltd.. The first phase for the basic nave roof structure installation and roof coverings in order to make the buildings watertight and the second phase being the fit out of the buildings. The phases being required to enable a first phase contract to be let whilst design development and discussion was still underway. Separate specifications and drawings were prepared for each phase of the work.

