



Chartered Architects

# NYE SAUNDERS LLP

## KOREAN CHURCH - Weybridge (formerly St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church)

Refurbishment of Grade 2\* Listed church buildings

Client – World Mission Korean Presbyterian Church (Grant aid assisted by English Heritage)

The Korean church had purchased the site some 10 to 15 years previously after the Roman Catholic church had abandoned hopes of developing the site to suit their own needs and by the time of our involvement the main church roof was leaking in numerous places, the smaller and more historic domed chapel was suffering from water ingress throughout and the attached presbytery was left as virtually a ruinous shell with no roof or floors. Vandals had also caused widespread damage to valuable stained and painted glass.

English Heritage (EH) were keen to help and indicated from the start of discussions that a significantly enhanced grant would be likely to be made available. The historic significance of the site is that the original chapel was one of the first in the country built after the emancipation of Roman Catholics following the 1829 Catholic Relief Act. The chapel was built in 1835 & later became a regular place of worship for the exiled French Royal family and in due course the chapel's crypt became the burial place for a number of French royalty and gentry. Their bodies were however later exhumed and taken for reburial at the French Royal chapel at Dreux, the tombs still remain however.

Key plans were prepared highlighting the various repairs required. These were backed up by more detailed drawings for the presbytery rebuilding. The main document was a detailed schedule of works backed up by an NBS specification. Tenders were obtained from four local contractors. All of whom we had worked with before on projects involving some restoration and repair to historic fabric. HA & DB Kitchin of Alton were appointed.

On the 1834 domed chapel roof repairs including a new slated roof & roof structure between chapel and presbytery, lead roof repairs, new mastic asphalt covering to main dome roof and new mastic asphalt to areas of concrete decked flat roofs, stone coping replacements, cast iron rainwater goods repairs and below ground drainage repairs. Stained and painted glass window repairs and installation of window guards. In the crypt to the chapel timber repairs where decay caused by a combination of wet and dry rot, various measures to let the fabric 'breathe' as far as possible including hard cement based render removal, application of lime renders & limewash decorations, surface water drainage improvements etc.

On the presbytery rebuild there were brickwork repairs and lime mortar repointing; reinstated softwood floor structures to a comparable size as the original. The roof structure to the original roof profile with a simple traditional pitched rafter roof construction using appropriately sized members was appropriate. A wall lining system was installed to the partially below ground level ground floor using the Newtonite lathing system. A new staircase – new based on the established original geometrical set out of the staircase. On the windows, restoration of very delicate brass and zinc framed windows and new timber subframes was carried out. The metal restoration work being carried out by Dorothea Ltd. The stone floor taken up and relaid to the original pattern on a new concrete subfloor incorporating a damp proof membrane linked to the Newtonite wall lathing system. The lime plaster installation was left until the end of the defects liability period in order to maximise the drying out time for the brickwork, (ditto in the crypt).

