MillsPower
Architecture

Memo

115 – St Andrew and St George

Photos for Repair of Aisle Rooves

Date: 5th November 2025

Read with reference to drawings.

1 Quick Architectural Significance

1.1 The church is listed Grade II. The structure is a precast concrete frame erected on site, cast in paraboloid arch shapes both spanning across and running down each side of the nave. The nave is on the first floor, accessed by a ramped and stepped approach at the liturgical west end of the church, above a crypt like ground floor originally used for storage, vestries and meeting space. The flat roofed aisles have brickwork exterior walls, which are fair face to the interior and clad in precast panels with river stone or flint facings to the exterior, with tall narrow windows. The concrete frame rises above the aisles with a copper clad half barrel roof, bespoke steel framed glazing and a copper clad barrel roof above. Originally the rainwater goods were also copper. A very tall concrete framed open bell tower is attached to the south aisle at the eastern end of the church.

1.2 The architecture of the church is very unusual, architecturally significant and possibly unique in Britain. The space of the nave with its criss cross rhythm of glazed parabolic arches feels dynamic, light and airy. The flint and river pebble clad exterior with its exposed concrete frame and arching copper rooves is distinctive, and with the tall, open concrete framed bell tower makes a significant landmark in Stevenage.

2 Quick Historical Significance

2.1 The church is a historically significant part of the plan for the new town of Stevenage. The church's bell tower is on the axis of Market Place, the pedestrian street that leads to the town centre. The church is identified as a landmark, and the view towards it as a key vista, in the Stevenage Central Town Centre Framework.

2.2 The Town Centre Conservation Area does not extend across St George's Way to include the site of the church. However, its original location terminating the view from Market Place and its Grade II Listing reinforces the building's historical significance as an integral part of the development of the new town.

3 Evaluation Criteria re Performance

3.1 Evaluation of the most appropriate materials and methods for repair of the leaking aisles rooves.

3.2 Through conversation with the church and diocese the criteria for repair are proposed as:

- Waterproofing system with a 20 year guarantee and an expected life of 30 to 50 years.
- Improve falls across the roof, so water runs away directly to the rainwater outlets.
- Add insulation if possible.
- Replace rainwater goods in a material of no interest to metal thieves.
- Safe access to the roof for future inspections and repairs.
- Project must be a discreet package of work independent of the other necessary repairs.

4 Recommended Strategy for Repair

4.1 Remove existing screed and install a light weight insulating screed with valleys and hips. Or lay tapered insulation along with a strategy for reducing impact sound of rain.

4.2 Install PMB polymer modified bitumen roofing membrane with metal perimeter flashings and scuppers.

4.3 Install mid grey coated stainless steel rainwater goods from aisle rooves to ground.

4.4 Consider installing a fall arrest system.

View looking west
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George

View looking east
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George

View of parapet with stone capping
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George

View of pier missing its capping and hopper and downpipe
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George

View of scupper through parapet
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George

View of upstand and drip flashing to copper half barrel
South aisle roof
St Andrew and St George