

A foreword from Peter Smyth, Managing Director

On behalf of all of our Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work, support and interest in Bakers of Danbury and its sister companies Collins and Curtis Masonry and Pickford Builders.

We have had the privilege to work on some beautiful historical buildings and homes again this year. In addition to those detailed within this newsletter, other interesting projects currently underway include underpinning to a redundant church in Mundon (see top right photo), repairs to Ancient Monuments Crossing Temple Barns (medieval barns which were the earliest and largest possessions of the Knights Templar) and Bourn Windmill (an open trestle post mill, one of the oldest surviving windmills in the UK)(see photo).

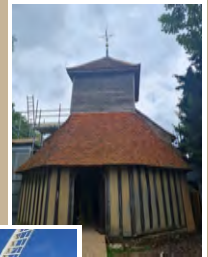
We are also back at Champion School in Hornchurch, to build a large extension and refurbish the extension we built over 12 years ago.

Since our last newsletter, our projects recently won the following prestige awards:

- Gold Award at The City of London's Considerate Contractor Scheme Awards 2022. The City of London said the decision was based on the overall performance of all personnel working on St Lawrence Jewry.
- Commended for Best Conservation, Alteration, or Extension of an Existing Building (under £2m) at the Greater Cambridge Design and Construction Awards. Former Mill Road Library in Cambridge.

I would like to welcome new starters Roger Draper as Joinery Workshop Supervisor and Dave Gaywood as Stores and Yard Manager, and congratulate Contract Managers Aiden Fothergill and Glen McPhee on completing their Level 6 Diplomas in Construction Contracting Operations Management.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with Bakers' latest projects, you can do so by visiting www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk



St Johns Church, Royston - update

Bakers of Danbury are set to complete the conservation and repair of St Johns Church early this Summer. The church was devastated by a fire which started in the tower in the early hours of the 9th December 2018. Works included cleaning and repair to much of the woodwork and stonework.

Extensive repairs were carried out to the internal walls of the tower, particularly at the belfry level where it had been damaged by the intense heat and large volumes of water used to extinguish the fire. After structural repairs were carried out, new roofs covered in sand cast lead (code 7) were installed to the tower and nave. Within the nave all timbers were dry ice blasted to remove fire and smoke damage, taking particular attention to preserve historical graffiti and hand carved roof bosses.

As the damaged plaster was being removed from the south wall of the north aisle it revealed fragments of a historic painted decoration consisting of a foliate background and elaborate gilded floral decoration. You can read more by visiting www.bakersofdanbury.co.uk/services/heritage



St Lawrence Jewry, London - update

A group of over 50 SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) members recently took part in a hard hat tour at St Lawrence Jewry. During the tour the attendees found out about how the current repair and restoration works are sensitive to the late 17th century construction, including both the traditional materials and the quality of workmanship, and how the works were designed for longevity using materials with longer service lifespans to ensure the ongoing preservation of the building.



Bakers' Specialist Joinery Division

Bakers' in-house joinery workshop is located next to the head office in Danbury. Our fully trained craftsmen manage projects from full design to final installation, directly for Clients and for Bakers' managed projects.

Current projects include:

- **Joinery for a private residence**

We are currently manufacturing a pair of bespoke external doors including frames in addition to a bespoke front screen (see bottom two photos) with individual windows which has been fitted onsite.

- **Windows and doors for a new extension**

For a private resident, we have manufactured new windows and external door frames in Sepele. They were hand painted and later fitted with aluminum windows and doors.

- **Bespoke desks**

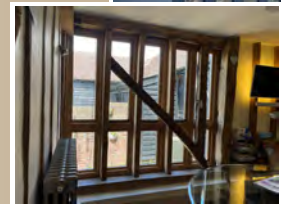
We recently manufactured two bespoke desks. The first desk was manufactured for a private residence in Birch plywood with a Tulip wood top. The second desk was for an office and was manufactured from Oak with a lino insert for a laptop or mouse to sit on (see top photo).

- **Doors and windows**

We have manufactured five casement windows in Sepele for a private residence.

- **St Johns Church, Royston**

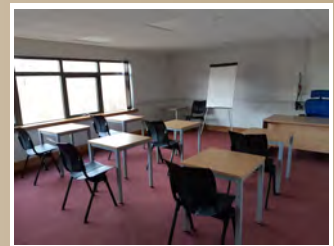
For St John's we have manufactured new solid oak furniture, which includes some large vestment cupboards and a bespoke servery, designed to sit seamlessly within the nave. We have also provided a bespoke flight of stairs for the tower and oak balustrade which has been fitted to the tower. Using oak salvaged from an existing door and supplemented with new pieces, we also manufactured an arch shaped oak door frame and a matching door in oak.



Witham Fire Station

Earlier this year Bakers carried out a refurbishment at Witham Fire Station which included two classrooms and an office. Chrysotile asbestos was removed from the ceilings of the classrooms before works began.

Works included a full redecoration, new suspended ceilings, new electrics, air conditioning, new doors, joinery and carpets throughout.

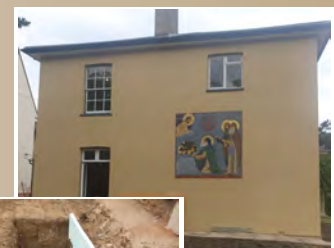


The Rectory

Bakers recently carried out structural repairs to a Rectory in Tolleshunt Knights for the Community of St John the Baptist. The flank wall was removed and two existing walls underpinned due to subsidence.

Temporary support for the structure was designed by an independent engineer using props, scaffold and timbers. Once the structure was supported from the ground floor to the roof level; two walls were removed, 3-meter foundations constructed and the walls were reconstructed using the salvaged bricks (which had been consecrated many years prior), supplemented with new bricks to match existing. To underpin two existing walls, a trench was dug and pins were formed, ensuring it was supported at all times.

Bakers protected and removed the religious artifacts, fittings and furniture before the flank wall was removed. Those rooms affected were later plastered, redecorated and all services were made good. All external walls were re-rendered and a mosaic mural (created by Sister Gabriella, Holy Monastery of St. John the Baptist, Essex) was inset within the new render.



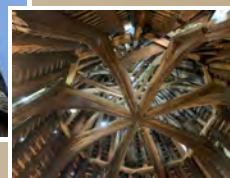
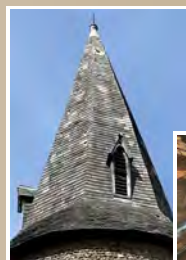
Re-shingling and repairs to Spire

Bakers of Danbury recently started restoration works to the tower and timber spire structure of St Mary's Church in Broomfield.

The octagonal spire roof, which is covered with cedar shingles has suffered extensive damage caused by woodpeckers pecking holes in the shingle roof. Bakers will first remove the softwood cedar shingles from the roof structure to allow the architect and structural engineer to review the battens and substructure. There is expected to be a minimal number of structural repairs needed before the spire roof is covered in hand split Oak shakes on pre-treated softwood battens, with new stainless-steel soakers.

The woodpeckers will be deterred from damaging the new spire roof in two ways, firstly because by replacing the shingles it will ensure any insects the woodpeckers were drilling for are removed. Secondly, the new oak shakes will be free from all visual traces of former pecking sites which make woodpeckers more likely to return. The new shakes will be constructed from oak (a hardwood unlike the existing cedar which is softwood) and will have strips of stainless steel behind them, as the sound vibrating off of them will help deter the woodpeckers.

The round tower is of significant importance due to its round shape. It is constructed from coursed flint and ferruginous conglomerate with roman bricks and quoins and houses six bells, just below eaves level supported in a steel frame. Bakers of Danbury will be repointing around 60% of the tower as the existing lime mortar pointing (which includes a very coarse aggregate) is failing at parts. The new pointing will also be of a breathable lime mortar with crushed shell.



Farmhouse Extension

Bakers recently completed a refurbishment and extension to a listed timber frame farmhouse in Brentwood, which partly dates back to the 16th century.

The full refurbishment of the farmhouse included removing the decayed sole plate and spalled damaged brick plinth. New foundations and brick plinth were constructed, a new mortised sole plate was fitted, with newly formed tenons on the existing oak posts and studs.

The whole farmhouse was decorated and the existing exposed timber beams, posts and studs within the farmhouse were cleaned. All three bathrooms were refurbished and limestone flooring laid. A new mechanical and electrical overhaul was carried out which included lighting, heating and plumbing systems. Two new extensions were constructed in traditional timber frame. They provide a kitchen and a utility cloakroom, both in keeping with the original house.

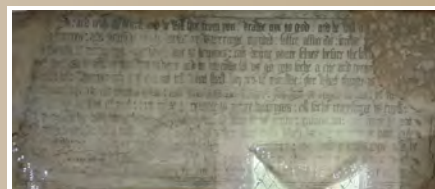
The whole farmhouse was re-rendered in breathable lime mortar with a brick plinth. Bakers have carried out a soft and hard landscaping scheme with external lighting, a summer house and pergolas.

Within the farmhouse Bakers refurbished a late 16th century/ early 17th century style double thickness door which was originally the front door. Bakers' joiners applied vertical battens and reinforced wrought iron pintle hinges with spoon terminals, there is an authentic wooden pull handle and rebate for a box lock that has been removed and the keyhole covered with tin plate. The slide bolts are original.

Bakers also carried out the conservation on some biblical text which is located over the first floor fire place. The text has been transcribed by Murial Carrick (who attempted to fill in the missing sections using the 1607 edit and purge your hears ye wavering mynded: suffer afflictions sorrow on of the Geneva Bible (which she acknowledges is not the text used).

Her transcription is as follows (with additions in brackets):

(submit yourself to God) and resist the devyll and he will flye from you: drawe nye to God and he will (draw neere to you. Cleanse your hands ye) synners: and purge your hearts ye wavering mynded: Suffre afflictions sorow (ye, and weep: let your laughter bee) turned to mourning and your joye to heaviness: cast downe youre selves before the Lord (and he will lift you up) iiii Go now ye that say to day and tomorrow let us into suche a citeand continue (there a yeare. And buy and sell.) and get gaine and yet cannot tell what shalt happen tomorrow: for what thingies (your life. It is even a vapour that) appeared for a little time and afterward vanished away: for that ye out to say. (If the Lord will. And if we live we will) do this or that but now rejoyce in your holiness all such ..rejoycing is evil (therefore. To him that) knoweth how to (doe well and doeth it not) to both soule....Knowledge also be.





We have had a busy six months supplying a variety of Limestone details to various new build and restoration projects. Some of the notable projects are listed below:

- Park Lane stone was used for the replacement of carved details (see top photo) to St Osyth Priory, Essex with Stoke Ground Basebed being used for the replacement copings.
- Cadeby Bed 1 was used in the reinstatement and repair to the carved friezes on a building in Lincolns Inn, London (see top right photo).
- Portland stone was used for a new door surround and pediment which we also fixed to an old Hall in Suffolk (see bottom left two photos).
- Clunch and Clipsham were used for the replacement of Jambs, Mullions, cills and tracery sections to a church in Tadlow, South Cambridgeshire (see bottom right three photos).
- Ancaster Hard White was used for further replacements to weathered stones to the Tower of Headingham Castle, Essex

We have completed many other projects using Limestone and Sandstone and have secured some interesting projects going forward. The most notable being the supply of all stone details for a large traditionally styled new house in Norfolk where we will be using Cadeby Beds 2 and 4 stone, as well as Lepine French Limestone.

Memorials continue to be extremely busy in spite of ever increasing costs and extended delivery times.



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New Staff

Pickford Builders Insurance works department recently welcomed two new Surveyor/Managers joining our team. Les Davidson and Adrian Clarke will be working alongside Carl Finbow to oversee our repair projects in Essex and Suffolk.

Insurance

Our Insurance Department has seen a steady stream of works in the areas we traditionally cover and is also responding to new coverage in the Ipswich town center postcode. Our works have also seen a venturing into the Norwich postcodes, where we have been invited by our Insurance network partners to target specific projects.

Contracts

To deal with the volumes of work coming into the insurance side, our contracts team have completed a number of these projects which include properties which have suffered fire, escape of water and impact incidents.

Alongside this, the general building works continue and currently include a large new build house, external repairs/redecoration to a house in Great Easton and refurbishment of a cottage near Pleshey which includes the bedrooms, bathrooms, windows, doors and cladding. We were also pleased to be able to provide the new memorial wall for All Saints Church in Rayne. This entailed building a wall in purpose made bricks to a curved shape which matches an older wall in the grounds of the church.

Photos top to bottom: Large new build house, refurbished B&B and a memorial for All Saints Church

