



Holy Trinity Church Bembridge

Fabric, Goods and Buildings Report for the APCM

April 2026

1. A church at the heart of it's community - background.

- 1.1 Holy Trinity Church (HTB) is set in a prominent position in the centre of Bembridge, a designated conservation area. The church is grade 2 listed. The church is central to the community. It is a place of worship, community gatherings and concerts as well as weddings and funerals.
- 1.2 The churchyard has been closed to further burials since 1902. Interment of ashes is permitted as is the placing of small memorial plaques on the boundary wall. There are no registered war graves in the churchyard.
- 1.3 The church was consecrated on 22nd July 1846; the cost being met by subscription, wealthy donors and fund raising. It was the last church to break away from the Island Mother church at Brading. Also within the village is St Luke's Chapel approximately 1 mile away. Adjacent to the church, and also owned and managed by the PCC, is The Cloisters church hall; recently modernised, and an important community asset.
- 1.4 The church is a twin nave building with spire, the cost of which was originally assisted by a grant from Trinity House, The Lighthouse Authority, as it was used as a navigation mark for the very busy waterways in the Solent. The vestry and porch were subsequently added as were what is now the boiler house and Organ Loft in Late Victorian Times. There is a crypt beneath the centre pews about which little is known.
- 1.5 The Church is built of Purbeck stone with a slate roof. The spire is supported by metal bands. The later addition of the Organ Loft has one brick wall on the west side. There are several stained-glass windows commemorating parishioners; mainly those killed in action in various wars.
- 1.6 The internal contents of the Church include a memorial organ for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, The main nave is filled with wooden pews. Pews at the west end of the church were removed in recent years to allow for ease of access for wheelchairs and in the South West corner which is now mainly used for children's worship and activity. The pews in the South nave were removed in 2024 and replaced by chairs to allow for more flexibility in the use of the space. There are two altars with altar candles. Various

memorials from previous years are placed on the walls. The church is heated by a gas fired boiler and radiators

2. Activity Report for 2025-2026.

2.1 Routine maintenance has been undertaken to service and check the operation of the electrical and heating systems, the boiler, the clock and the organ. Repairs to the clock were undertaken and the clock face has been repainted.

2.2 Some remedial electrical issues identified in the Electrical Installation Inspection conducted by Durman Electrical in February 2025 remain outstanding.

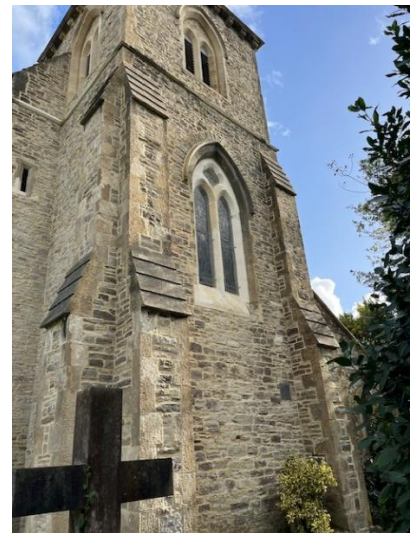
2.3 The main area of remedial work has been the repair of stonework on the exterior of the church tower where stone repair and repointing was required. This work was undertaken during the summer of 2025. Damp penetration has caused deterioration of the plaster and paint on the interior of the tower and adjacent walls. As part of the repair project a water resistant, breathable coating (Keim) was applied to the exterior of the tower, which in due course will allow for the interior plaster to be repaired.



Before



During



After

2.4 The internal staircase within the tower had deteriorated to the point where access was considered unsafe. The staircase has been fully repaired. The roof of the boiler room had been in need of repair for some time. It has been fully repaired.

2.5 Thanks to two generous donations the project to install glass doors on the North entrance porch of the church has been completed together with refurbishment of the porch. This has considerably improved the sense of welcome to the church and assists in reducing heat loss through the doorway.



Before



After

2.6 Various minor works have been undertaken at St Luke's Chapel, which is maintained by means of continued support by Weaver Brothers, Funeral Directors. A £500 legacy was received for the upkeep of the chapel, and this has allowed the vestry to be refurbished. We are grateful for the continued support of Diana Bown in ensuring that the chapel is maintained in good order.

2.7 The Cloisters continues to offer a great resource for the church community and is in almost daily use. Some minor repairs have been needed to strengthen the floor in the Eve Hall. A new storage shed has been installed in the garden. We are grateful to all of the volunteers involved in keeping the Cloisters clean and tidy, whether putting out the bins, ordering supplies or keeping our kitchen sparkling. A spot hygiene inspection of the kitchen during the year earned top marks.

2.8 Exploration continues of the Net Zero Carbon agenda and how HTB can develop an energy reduction strategy. HTB has achieved the Arosha Eco Church Silver Award.

2.9 The annual inspections of the Terrier detailing the contents of Holy Trinity Church and St Luke's chapel has been completed and we are pleased to report that the fabric, goods and ornaments are all in good order. A digital copy of the Terrier has now been uploaded and we are in the process of ensuring that it is up to date. Our thanks go to Fran Weil and team for taking care of the Vestry and its contents, and for ensuring that all our services are correctly prepared and supported.

2.10 The PCC would like to acknowledge with thanks the continued commitment of the Friends of Holy Trinity Bembridge to raising funds for the upkeep and enhancement of the fabric of the church and The Cloisters. Their support is essential and is greatly appreciated. Any support that members of the church community can give to the Friends is always welcome.

2.11 We also express thanks to the Bembridge Men in Sheds Group for their continued support, to Aaron Rogers and Robert Heathfield for always being ready to support the church with many maintenance tasks. We would also like to acknowledge the excellent workmanship of our contractors Jim King and his team, and especially our stonework repair expert Bill Silvester.

2.12 Our grateful thanks go to Pete Myatt for all his important work behind the scenes as our Health and Safety adviser. Monthly and annual checks have continued, and Pete has spent considerable time reviewing our policies and risk assessment procedures over the last year. Our annual fire safety and emergency evacuation training has been run for the Welcome Team to ensure we are fully aware of any risks to safety and that we are prepared for any eventuality in the church.

2.13 Finally we express our thanks to our loyal volunteers who do so much to ensure that the church, St Luke's Chapel, the churchyard, the Cloisters and its garden are kept in good order and that our church community is supported. The teams that support our church include:

- Musicians and organist
- Technical support team
- Flower arrangers
- Cleaners
- Clock winders
- Bell ringers
- Vestry team
- Gardens and grounds team
- Welcome teams
- Coffee and tea servers for Tuesday coffee mornings and after Sunday services
- Pastoral care team

All of the above teams are constantly on the lookout for additional volunteers. If any readers of this report are willing to support one or more of these teams, please do not hesitate to let the Churchwardens know.

Toni Swann and Andrew Larpent

Churchwardens
April 2026