



Missing tiles and poor pointing



Buddleia on west face

St Jude's tower stronger than ever with help from our friends

DAVID WHITE

Residents will recall the saga of the weathervane that blew out during Storm Barney in November 2015 and the appeal that St Jude's launched in early 2021 to repoint the tower using the scaffolding that was erected to enable the weathervane to be replaced.

The repairs took until early in 2022 to finalise and the cost was much higher than originally anticipated. That was largely down

to the structural flaws exposed in Lutyens' original design for the tower. That said, the tower is now stronger than when it was first built. The lead tiles on the spire that look a different colour to the rest of the spire are replacements for those damaged when the old weathervane blew out of the spire. They will weather over time. The old weathervane is now on display inside St Jude's.

St Jude's was able to kickstart its campaign to restore the tower, part of which might have fallen away had St Jude's not had access from the scaffolding, thanks to the generous support it received from Historic England, who contributed £46,665 from the outset and for which St Jude's is very grateful. St Jude's then received a further grant of £25,000 from Historic England after the structural flaws were discovered.

St Jude's is hugely grateful for the support it also received from HGS Trust, HGS Residents Association and the local community who all contributed towards the restoration costs.

Suburb readers will be aware that the old weathervane contained two time capsules. The new weathervane also contains two time capsules, one detailing the contractors who worked on the project and the other containing materials relating to the appeal. Full details of what is in the time capsules can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2zwrnhje>.

With grateful thanks from the parishioners of St Jude-on-the-Hill for your support.



After the repairs

Photos: David White



Michael crossing the finish line (Photo: Amy Mace)

All roads lead to Rome

MYKE JACOBS

I have now completed my 1,128 mile charity trek, walking the equivalent distance of London to Rome. I began the challenge 13 months ago on 1 April 2021, and thanks to my supporters (including Suburb News readers) have raised over £16,500 for Nepal children's charity, Kidasha.

Diagnosed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to a health condition, I was faced with completing my trek whilst staying safe. As a result, I decided to cover the London to Rome distance using the space provided by a secluded field behind my house. Over the last year, I have completed the equivalent of 12,400 laps of the field – 2.65 million steps – in support of Kidasha. In fact, my track is so well worn that you can see it from space – <https://bit.ly/30H4VTZ>.

After retiring from my roles as former Chairman and Trustee of Kidasha, my wife, Ruth and I embarked on charity treks to continue our support of Kidasha. Since 2006, we have physically walked through Nepal's Himalaya and Annapurna mountain ranges – and even reached Everest Base Camp in 2008.

All of the funds raised from the trek will support Kidasha's work to improve the lives of children living in chronic poverty in Nepal. This includes working to end child exploitation by providing homeless children with safe shelter, helping children into education, and working to help the most marginalised escape poverty.

To support Kidasha's fundraising efforts, please visit: Myke's 'Trek to Rome without ever leaving home' fundraising page.

To learn more about Kidasha, please visit: <https://kidasha.org/>.

Big Wood bluebells were plentiful and looked particularly stunning this year.



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