

St Michael's and All Angels Church in Somerton



Reviving Radiance at St. Michael and All Angels Church: A Restoration Chronicle

Nestled in the heart of Somerton, the 'Ancient Royal Town of Wessex,' St. Michael and All Angels Church stands as a living testament to the passage of time. With fragments tracing back to the early 13th century and recent additions in 2004, the church underwent a transformative internal refurbishment in 2012 and 2013.



Our recent endeavour focused on the restoration of three magnificent chandeliers, including two 12-arm single-tier and one 16-arm double-tier fitting, crafted in two distinct types of brass. The single-tier, infused with a higher copper content, emanates a captivating bronzed appearance. Unfortunately, the ravages of time had taken their toll, leaving all pieces heavily tarnished.

Embracing a meticulous approach, we chose to clean the chandeliers in-situ, utilizing a portable scaffolding tower for precise access. Removing the arms with a keen eye on maintaining their positions, we ensured that the delicate balance of the fittings remained intact during the rebuilding process. Each arm underwent manual cleaning and polishing, followed by the application of a protective spray lacquer, preserving the newly renovated brass. The body of the fitting received the same tender care – cleaned, polished, and lacquered in-situ. The grand finale involved the careful reassembly of the chandelier, with arms and candles delicately set in place, poised for their radiant return.

As the sunlight streamed through the stained glass windows, the newly cleaned chandeliers showcased their brilliance, transforming the sacred space. In just three days, our dedicated team completed this gratifying restoration project, leaving all three chandeliers in their resplendent glory. Join us in celebrating the revival of St. Michael and All Angels Church, where history meets craftsmanship, and the beauty of restoration shines anew.

St Mary the Virgin Church in Charlton Mackrell



Rediscovering St. Mary the Virgin Church: A Journey of Restoration

Embark on a historical voyage within the walls of St. Mary the Virgin Church, tracing its origins back to the 14th century, with notable modifications in the 15th century. A substantial restoration around 1847 has veiled the intricate architectural tale and during this Victorian overhaul, the porch, roofs, and the majority of windows were rebuilt. A vestry was added at the same time adding a layer of complexity to the church's narrative.

Noteworthy is the charming end window of the north transept, adorned with the characteristic ball flower ornament of the period on the rear arch.

Witnessing the passage of time are two majestic 12-arm cast brass chandeliers, gracefully suspended on either side of the choir pews. Bearing the weight of years of service without proper cleaning, both chandeliers displayed heavy tarnishing, pitting, and deep staining from candle wax.



In a meticulous restoration process, the entire fittings were delicately removed and transported to our specialised workshops in Wellington. Stripping each element from the main hub, our craftsmen employed a careful combination of gentle sanding for challenging stains, a bespoke stain remover, and brass polishes. Hand tools were artfully used for polishing and buffing, culminating in a largely hand-finished project.



The final assembly demanded utmost precision, as the sequencing of the arms had been compromised over many years meaning care had to be taken in rebuilding the chandeliers to achieve the correct balance.



Now restored to their rightful place, these two classic brass chandeliers illuminate the sacred space once again, resplendent in their renewed glory.

We can celebrate history revived, as St. Mary the Virgin Church stands as a testament to the art of restoration and the enduring beauty of its timeless fixtures.















