



TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL RESTORATION PROJECT



INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

June 2024



Preserving for Eternity

“
The Chapel of Trinity College Kandy, a historical landmark in Sri Lanka, has been an inspiration to the Trinity community since 1922. However, after decades of exposure, the chapel now urgently requires substantial restoration to safeguard its structural integrity and historical significance.
”

Preamble

“It is with great joy that we share with the Trinity Family this inaugural newsletter of the Trinity College Chapel Restoration Project [CRP] - Preserving for Eternity.”

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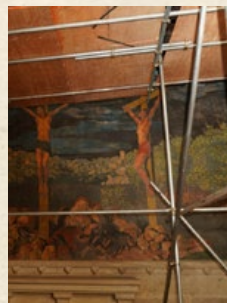
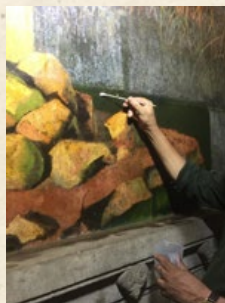
Progress & Upcoming work

“...Initiated the conservation [cleaning] work of the Crucifixion mural and Continuation of restoration work of the wood carvings in the Chancel....”

Page 03 & 04



Images above: Cleaning work underway of the wooden 'pekadas' carvings above the Chancel of the Chapel.



Images on left: Restoration work underway of the Crucifixion Mural (Above the altar).

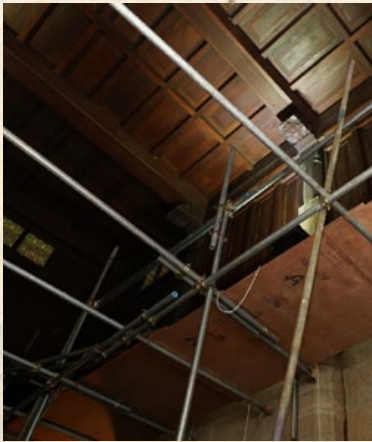


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Images above: Scaffolding fixtures during the restoration and cleaning process of the Chapel's Chancel

Preamble

It is with great joy that we share with the Trinity Family this inaugural newsletter of the Trinity College Chapel Restoration Project [CRP] - Preserving for Eternity. Our journey towards restoring and preserving the historical and spiritual significance of our beloved Chapel has officially begun, and we are excited to embark on this transformative endeavour.

The restoration represents not just a physical renovation of a building but a revitalisation of our pursuit of the Trinity ideal. It is a testimony to our commitment in preserving our shared history spanning over 150 years of excellence for future generations.

This newsletter hopes to inform and engage the community in every step of the restoration process. We will share with you the progress, challenges, and triumphs of this monumental venture undertaken with a profound sense of trust in Divine Providence and a commitment to our beloved alma mater. Together, we can preserve our past, enrich our present, and build a future that honours the legacy of our pioneering founders.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to sharing this remarkable journey with you.

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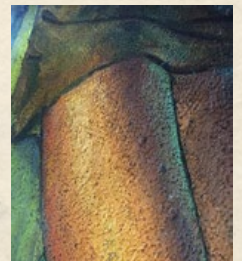
Rev. Fr. Araliya Jayasundara OSB

Principal / Chairperson - CRP: Advisory & Oversight Committee



Images right: Before and After captures (close-up) of a part of the Crucifixion Mural during the restoration.

Images left: Cleaning work underway of the wooden carvings in the Chancel





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Progress work in June 2024

- Convened the inaugural session of the TCK Chapel Restoration Project Advisory & Oversight Committee.
- On Wednesday, 12th June 2024, formally inaugurated the community fundraising activities of the CRP.
- Continued restoration work on the wood carvings in the chancel.
- Initiated the conservation (cleaning) work of the Crucifixion mural.
- Initial consultations on the proposed heritage lighting and sound system for the Chapel.
- Proposal for the second phase of restoration of the wood carvings (above the washing of feet mural) was submitted to the A & OC.
- Visit of Mr. David Pyne, the High Commissioner to New Zealand.



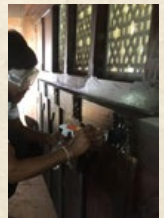
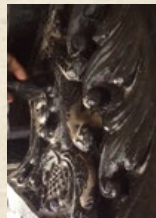
Images right: Before and after captures of the wooden ceiling inside the chancel - progress of cleaning and restoration work.

Image left: Close-up capture of the wooden carvings above the chancel during cleaning work.



Images left: Damaged wooden 'pekadas' in the chancel - due to rainwater leakage, damage by termites, and dust gathering.

Images right: Captures of the restoration and cleaning work of the wooden carvings - using ammonia, water, drying, applying wood preservative, doing reintegration work and applying Paraloid B 72 with xylene protective layer.





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Upcoming work in July 2024

- Completion of the wood carving restorations in the chancel.
- First review of the proposal for heritage lighting and sound system for the Chapel.
- Commencement of the chronicling process of the CRP by a team of archaeologists under the guidance of the lead conservator.
- Submission of the proposal for the restoration of the wood carvings in the Chapel nave.
- Designing a mechanism to prevent water seepage into the Crucifixion mural.



Images right: Close-up images of the wooden carvings around the Chapel Nave areas - cleaning and restoration work underway.

Image left: Close-up capture of a wooden pekadas - cracks seen on picture.



Image above: The 'Are Ye Able' Mural in the Side Chapel - before restoration. 2018



Image above: The 'Are Ye Able' Mural in the Side Chapel - after the restoration. 2023

We are pleased to announce the successful restoration of the "Are Ye Able" mural, located in the Side Chapel of the Chapel of Trinity College Kandy. This extensive restoration was expertly executed by a dedicated team of restorers during the period of 2022 and 2023.

The restoration process has yielded significant enhancements to the mural, reviving its colours and intricate details. The vibrancy and clarity of the scene have been meticulously restored, bringing new life to this treasured artwork. Below are before (2018) and after (2023) images that illustrate the remarkable transformation of the mural.

See next page: David Paynter working on the Are Ye Able Mural in 1928



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Image above: A historical photograph of David Paynter in 1928, captured as he painted the "Are Ye Able" mural in the Side Chapel.

Originally painted in 1928 by David Paynter, the mural reflects the lush, vegetative beauty of Sri Lanka that deeply impressed Paynter upon his return from studying art in Europe. The artwork depicts the mother of James and John kneeling before Jesus of Nazareth, who is adorned in a yellow robe. She petitions Jesus to grant her two sons, who stand on either side of him, the highest places in his kingdom. Instead, Jesus offers them the path of humility and the privilege of suffering, encapsulated in the profound question: "Are ye able to..."

The restoration of the "Are Ye Able" mural marked the initial phase of the comprehensive Chapel Restoration project currently in progress. We are committed to preserve and enhance the historical and artistic heritage of our Chapel, and we look forward to sharing further updates as the restoration project advances.

How you can support

Your financial contributions and expertise are invaluable in safeguarding this beacon of Trinity's heritage for future generations. Join us in this noble endeavor to restore and uphold the Chapel's legacy of integrity, service, and excellence.

Donate

You can make a donation via a bank transfer to the following Bank Account:

Name: **Trinity College Kandy**
Bank: **Commercial Bank**
Account: **100 034 3975**
Branch: **Kandy**
Swift Code: **CCEYLK LX**

Please state CRP - (Your Name) under reference.

Donors

Trinity College expresses heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors listed below who have already made contributions to the Chapel Restoration project.

- Trinity College Kandy
- Holy Trinity Parish
- Mrs. M. Dhanapala
- Dr. Hilmy Ismail (Through the kindness of Mr. Gihan Nanayakkara)
- Mr. Ansari Mohamed Fazith
- Mr. P. Sivanandan (Through the kindness of Mr. Sriyantha Senaratne & Mr. Gihan Nanayakkara)
- Mr. Jayendu Wijeratne
- Mr. Jason Wijeyeweera

Donations as of 11 July 2024:

Rs. 8,582,135.00 / Rs. 60,000,000.00 (Initial Estimate)

For more information

For those wishing to know more about the Chapel Restoration Project, its work, efforts, and updates, or who are willing to support and contribute:

Please visit: www.trinitycollege.lk/chapel-restoration-project/

Or email chapelrestoration@trinitycollege.lk



Scan this QR Code to visit our dedicated page on the College website for the Chapel Restoration Project.

You can also opt-in to receive this newsletter via email