Below is a letter which Mary received last week from Carina Eisenmann, the Architectural Assistant to Paul Sharrock, St. Mary’s Surveyor.

Dear Mary,

Now that the scaffold is up at St Mary’s, Paul inspected the tower at close quarters. The condition of the stability of the stone work is much worse than feared, Paul was in fact able to move principal stones by hand. In addition, the flint work on either side of the quoin stones is moving with the stones. In practice this means that the whole corner from the glass bottle right up to the underside of the eaves is in “live” and could fall.

Paul has therefore had to reassess the repair works necessary. In essence these are similar works in technique, however slightly more extensive and definitely more urgent.

We have had the revised works repriced. Unfortunately this results in a likely construction cost of £12,131.00. The original anticipated construction cost was £7,150.00 plus £2,000.00 contingency, total £9,150.00.

Our fees and VAT will need to be added to the revised construction cost.

Contributions towards the cost of this work would be very welcome. Cheques should be made payable to St. Mary’s Bexley PCC and given or sent to Mary (43 Wansunt Road, Bexley, DA5 2DH) Anyone who wishes to pay by bank transfer should e-mail Mary who will provide the necessary information. Do, please gift aid if you are able to do so.