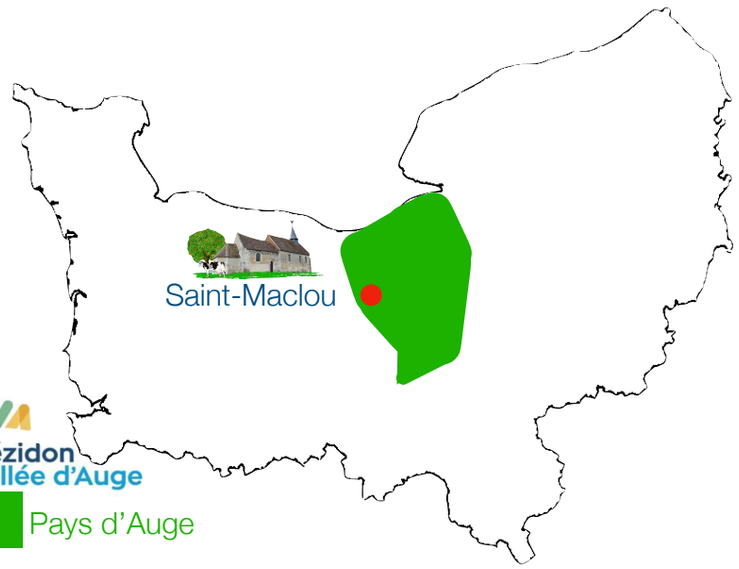


CHAPELLE DE SAINT-MACLOU

Let us affirm our commitment to the heritage of our region

Together, let's restore this chapel to its former glory !





CURRENT SITUATION & SUGGESTIONS

Photo Andrée Desveaux

Mr François AUBEY
Mayor of Mézidon Vallée-d'Auge
Mr Bruno GUIARD
Deputy Mayor of Mesnil-Mauger
Mézidon Vallée-d'Auge

October 2025

Association des Amis de la Chapelle de Saint-Maclou

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Association les Amis de la Chapelle de Saint-Maclou - RNA : W 143000975 - SIRET : 502 811 235 000 14



CHAPELLE DE SAINT-MACLOU

Together, let's restore this chapel to its former glory !

CURRENT SITUATION & SUGGESTIONS

To Mr. François AUBEY, Mayor of Mézidon Vallée-d'Auge,
and Mr Bruno GUIARD, maire délégué du Mesnil-Mauger,

In recent years, we have taken every opportunity to visit chapels that have undergone restoration.

While all the restorations are generally aesthetically impeccable, we regret that they all follow the same model, with a uniformity that tends to obscure the unique character of each chapel.

With this in mind, we hope that all work on the Saint-Maclou chapel will be carried out with respect for its original appearance.

Our guiding principle is therefore "to restore this chapel to its former glory."

To ensure it has a new lease on life, one that will resonate with the times through the appeal it will generate for foreign visitors, the general public, local residents, and event organizers (family ceremonies, cultural events, etc.).

However, it goes without saying that we will take advantage of the restoration work to equip the chapel with high-performance and comfortable facilities that meet current safety standards and technological advancements.

This **Current Status & Suggestions** document follows on from the **Executive Summary** presented to you on February 17, 2025.

We hope it will provide you with the necessary clarity regarding our intentions and convince you of the spirit that drives us in carrying out this project alongside you, to enhance and preserve this communal heritage.

Henri-Jean LEPETIT

President of the association Les Amis de la Chapelle de Saint-Maclou



Scan this QR code to access the Chapel of Saint-Maclou

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A SIX-THEMED STRUCTURE

This document outlining the current situation and suggestions aims to record descriptive content covering six themes : diagnosis, surroundings, periphery, perimeter, enclosure, and living space. For each of these themes, we will suggest interventions which, depending on their nature, will fall under the categories of maintenance, restoration, and/or development.



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1/ THE DIAGNOSIS

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The Saint-Maclou chapel has already undergone a restoration program, having been closed to the public at one time due to safety concerns.
It was thanks to Patrick Truffaut's initiative, following the creation of our association, that the initial funds were raised and the essential work carried out, ultimately leading to its reopening to the public.
The structural and supporting elements that underwent work included: the framework, the roof, the drainage and water runoff system, the door frames of the side doors of the choir (one of which is walled up), the west and south facades, the sacristy's perimeter walls, etc.
Today, the program we propose to support will focus not only on the interior but also on the architectural and structural elements of the building. Establishing an accurate diagnosis will protect us against unpleasant surprises that could result in unidentified costs.

SUGGESTIONS

The assessment must consider the building's structure and its covering :

- The roof frames of the sacristy, chancel, nave, and bell tower ;
- The wooden support framework of the bell tower ;
- The roofs of the bell tower, nave, chancel, and sacristy ;
- The roof waterproofing ;
- The walls surrounding the nave, chancel, and sacristy ;
- The drainage and water runoff system ;
- Etc.



View of the bell tower from the south facade



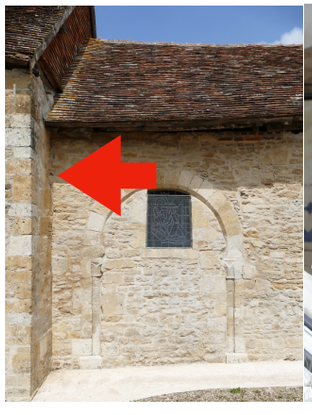
South facade view - Roof fragility



There is no waterproofing between the walls and the roof.



Low support structure for the bell tower





On the south facade, an external crack is also found inside at the junction between the nave and the choir.



Confessional side, pillar of the bell tower



Detail of the sacristy's framework

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2/ THE SURROUNDINGS

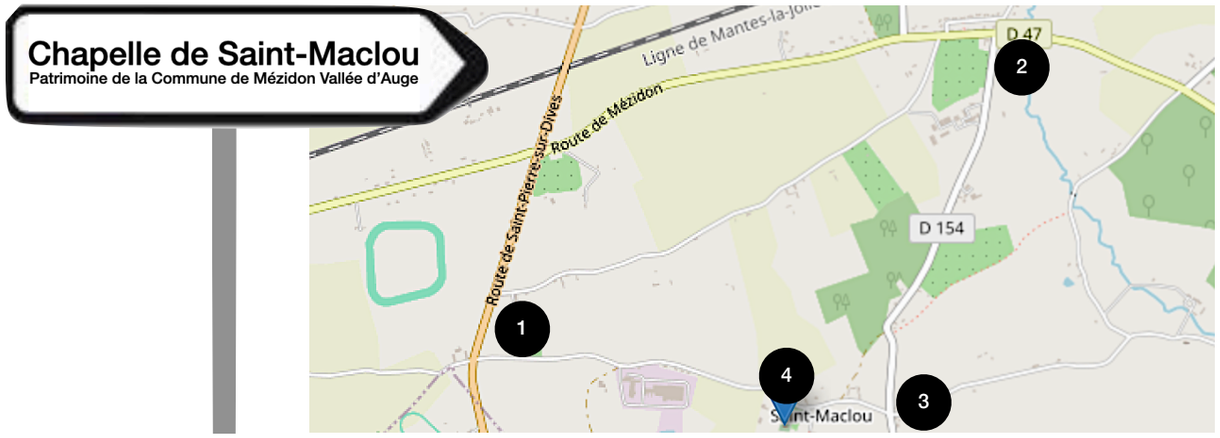
SIGNAGE FOR THE LOCATION

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

Set back from the Saint-Maclou road, the Saint-Maclou chapel suffers from a lack of signage ; it's easy to drive right past it without seeing it or to search for it in vain !
Unless visitors know the various access points from the Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives road (D16), the Saint-Maclou road, the Mézidon road (D47), or the Sainte-Marie-aux-Anglais road (D154), they can easily get lost.
At the four identified intersections, installing a directional sign would be the solution to facilitate access to the chapel.

SUGGESTIONS

- At the four identified intersections: Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives road - D16, Saint-Maclou road, Mézidon road D47, and Sainte-Marie-aux-Anglais road D154, a directional sign will be installed.
- As an example, a possible text could be used: Saint-Maclou Chapel Heritage of the municipality of Mézidon Vallée d'Auge.





Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives road - Saint-Maclou road



Mézidon road - Sainte-Marie-aux-Anglais road



Sainte-Marie-aux-Anglais road - Saint-Maclou road



Saint-Maclou road at the chapel



3/ THE PERIPHERY

PARKING AREA, ADJACENT PROPERTY AND PUBLIC ACCESS

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

From the Saint-Maclou road, access to the Saint-Maclou chapel is via a dirt track covered with gravel.
Approximately 3 meters wide, this track is bordered along its entire length by an ever-growing thuja hedge that extends beyond the property line each year.
Every year, the municipality prunes this shared hedge to control the brambles that scratch vehicles using the road.
Furthermore, lacking a designated parking area, cars are parked haphazardly in the adjacent meadow, as close as possible to the chapel and near the yew tree within the chapel grounds.
As a result of these parking conditions, the area at the chapel entrance becomes a permanent mud pit in autumn, winter, and whenever the weather is rainy.
These parking conditions do not encourage people to visit the chapel; they are anxiety-inducing and complicated, especially for the elderly.

SUGGESTIONS

- Subject to the landowner's permission, create a parking area with approximately twenty spaces on the left, immediately after access from the Saint-Maclou road.
- Restrict access to the chapel grounds to authorized vehicles only (municipal, parish, weddings, funerals, etc.).
- Widen the access road from 3 meters to 3.50 meters.
- Reach a suitable compromise with the owners of the thuja hedge to control its growth; it currently reaches a height of over 5 meters and extends 0.50 to 1.30 meters beyond the property line.

<u>Optional</u>
To improve security at the chapel, consider lighting the driveway and parking area without altering the surrounding environment. One possibility is to install bollards with solar panels and motion detectors aligned with the thuja hedge.



Access to the chapel from the Saint-Maclou road



Parking near the chapel



Parking within the chapel grounds near the yew tree

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4/ THE AREA

4.1 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA SURROUNDING THE OLD YEW TREE

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The Saint-Maclou chapel lacks any alternative facilities for accommodating visitors, worshippers, or families.
This lack of facilities forces us to use the chapel's interior.
Because we are committed to providing a high-quality experience, we frequently organize social events for our visitors; creating a suitable outdoor space would perfectly meet our needs.

This new outdoor facility would allow us to optimize the chapel's interior spaces in accordance with its primary purpose.

SUGGESTIONS

- Install a stone bench in front of the yew tree (replacing the wooden bench).
- Move the Garden of Remembrance to the left, between the yew tree and the Gosselin family tomb.
- Create a covered shelter to the right of the yew tree in place of the Garden of Remembrance. This shelter (in the traditional style) will provide a covered structure for welcoming the public or families during festive events, visits, and/or religious services.

<u>Optional</u>
For the covered shelter, install a water supply, indirect lighting from the roof structure, and electrical outlets.
Equipment with solar-powered bollards and motion detectors could be useful when welcoming worshippers or visitors.



View of the yew tree right from the chapel exit



Between the yew tree and the Gosselin family tomb, relocation of the Garden of Remembrance ?



In spirit, as an indication, this is the type of structure to be created to the right of the yew tree at the location of the Garden of Remembrance.

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4/ THE AREA

4.2 - LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING OF THE CEMETERY

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The cemetery adjoining the Saint-Maclou chapel enjoys an exceptional setting, offering a remarkable view over the Viette valley.
Overall, the graves are well-maintained, although some are neglected or dilapidated.
The paths between the graves are either grassed or gravel.
The walkways are more or less formally laid out.

SUGGESTIONS

- As a target vision, we suggest that "The Garden of the Dead" be the new name for this cemetery.
- Clearly define the gravel pathways and delineate the grassy areas accordingly.
- To target planting efforts, delineate all remaining areas available for plot allocation.
- Engage a landscape architect(*) to ensure flowering in harmony with the seasons.

(*) It could be beneficial to take advantage of the fertility of our Normandy soil to brighten this cemetery, giving it a garden-like appearance where flowers and graves blend seamlessly ! A cemetery should be a place that soothes sadness and grief, a place of encounter and reunion for both the living and the deceased. Furthermore, with this in mind, it would be appropriate to have seasonal flowers nearby to adorn the nave, chancel, and altars of the chapel.

- Renovate the waste receptacle (clean the surfaces, fill in the gaps and apply a smooth cement finish to all surfaces, plant vegetation around the visible perimeter).

<u>Optional</u>
Consider lighting the cemetery by installing bollards. These bollards, equipped with solar panels and motion detectors, can be integrated into the landscaping program.



Overview of the east side of the chapel



Waste receptacle located at the eastern end of the cemetery



Graves near the war memorial east facade of the chapel

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5/ THE SPACE

5.1 - RESTORATION OF THE WEST AND NORTH FACADES

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The West Façade

The entire façade has been covered with smooth cement that appears to be in perfect condition.
The main entrance to the chapel is located on this façade.
This entrance certainly benefits from a more solemn appearance, perhaps with the creation of a stone forecourt flanked on either side by planters.

The North Wall of the Nave

The facing is uneven, revealing the stone in places.
Pieces of the facing have fallen away.

The North Wall of the Choir

This wall is a notable architectural feature, representative of Romanesque art in all its splendor.
The cornice is adorned with modillions whose details are tending to fade with time.
On this façade wall, numerous joints bear witness to successive restorations.
This wall contains a Romanesque doorway that has been restored.



North facade, view of the sacristy, the choir and the nave



North facade - nave wall





West facade - chapel entrance



North facade of the choir



Corbels and north wall of the choir

SUGGESTIONS

The west facade

- Confirmation of its apparent good condition ;
- Creation of a stone forecourt adorned on either side with planters.

The north wall of the nave and chancel

- Exposing the stonework, repairing the joints, and treating against damp and mold ;
- Complete restoration with exposed stonework ;
- Consider what can be done to restore the corbels and/or prevent their deterioration over time.

Optional

Consider lighting the facades with recessed spotlights in the ground and/or spotlights installed at the junction between the walls and the roof.



5/ THE SPACE

5.2 - RESTORATION OF THE SOUTH FACADE AND THE SACRISTY

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The south wall of the chancel
At the junction with the nave, a significant crack is visible.
This wall contains a doorway that has been walled up, with a restoration of the Romanesque frame.
Made of exposed stone, this wall is in satisfactory condition.
The south wall of the nave
This wall is made of exposed stone and is in satisfactory condition.
The walls of the sacristy
They are in very good overall condition and do not appear to require any particular intervention, except perhaps for changing the function of the window if a stained-glass window and a ventilation opening are installed in the wall..

SUGGESTIONS

The walls of the sacristy, the south walls of the chancel and nave
Check the overall condition, but apply the necessary treatment to protect the stone from weathering and pests.
These walls must remain exposed stone.
Work to contain and seal the emerging crack at the junction of the chancel and nave.

To consider
Installing zinc flashing between the roof and the walls.
The absence of flashing can worsen damage to the building in high winds and, above all, make it subject to leaks.

Optional
Consider lighting the facades with recessed spotlights in the ground and/ or spotlights installed at the junction between the walls and the roof.



South facade of the nave



South facade, view of the nave, the choir and the sacristy



The roof is in poor condition and there is a large crack at the junction between the chancel and the nave.



East facade of the sacristy



Walled-up doorway on the south facade of the choir

6/ LIVING SPACE

6.1 - ACCESSIBILITY FOR WORSHIPPERS AND VISITORS TO HERITAGE SITES

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

Undertaking the renovation and restoration of this thousand-year-old chapel (and its surroundings) affirms our commitment to preserving its spiritual and cultural significance. Making this site a center of interest, a place of convergence, means being able to welcome all those who wish to come for quiet reflection or to learn about the history of our region.
Unless we have staff available seven days a week to welcome worshippers and the public, except for events or open house afternoons that we organize, the Saint-Maclou chapel remains inaccessible to most people.
To address this frustration, there are secure systems in place that allow us to open our buildings. Following the model of the churches in Repentigny and Vieux-Pont-en-Auge, we suggest installing such a system at the Saint-Maclou chapel, ensuring: the security of the premises and property (monitoring of visitor flow), respect for the anonymity of individuals (in accordance with current legislation), and the ability to assist visitors through a virtual presence (recorded commentary). Furthermore, this feature will be a strong argument when we seek financial support from third parties for our project.

SUGGESTIONS

- Installation of a video surveillance system ;
- Installation of a sound system ;
- Wireless alarm with photo capture and free app ;
- Membership in the Open Churches association.

Note
Following the model already implemented for the churches in Repentigny and Vieux-Pont, we have submitted a supporting document (project for the implementation of a "secure free access" system) to the local company that previously carried out the work, to the satisfaction of the clients. This proposal will then be forwarded to the municipality of Mesnil-Mauger - Mézidon Vallée d'Auge for approval.



Main entrance to the chapel



6/ LIVING SPACE

6.2 - NAVE RENOVATION

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The nave of the Saint-Maclou chapel is adorned with Greek crosses that likely date from the 12th century.
Having undergone some restoration work in the past, it initially appears to be in acceptable condition. However, upon closer inspection, the floor, walls, and ceiling are in dire need of repair. The walls and ceiling show dirt, peeling paint, cracks, efflorescence, deteriorated or crumbling plaster, and partially erased illuminations.
The terracotta tile floor is stained, and some tiles are broken or loose. While the crossbeams appear sound, they certainly need to be inspected.

SUGGESTIONS

- The Walls

Stripping the walls and treating the stones (against crumbling and dampness), applying and smoothing an insulating plaster, and painting with lime. Recreating the Greek cross motifs and cornice illuminations in their original size and color. Installing picture rails around the perimeter to allow for exhibitions.

- The Ceiling

Stripping the ceiling, repairing the joints between the slats, replacing any damaged slats, applying and smoothing an insulating plaster, and painting with lime.

- The Floor

Replacing broken or loose tiles, stripping, cleaning, and sanding the entire surface, and applying a finishing treatment.

- The Crossbeams

Brushing and cleaning the wood, treating it against parasites, and applying a clear wood stain.

Optional

Consider installing infrared radiant heating, either in the form of suspended chandeliers or individual units positioned under the crossbeams.
A timer system would optimize energy consumption according to needs and allow for remote activation.



View of the nave from the choir



North facade wall



Detail of the base



View from the ceiling



Main entrance



Wall paintings



Detail of the bell tower structure



Flooring

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6/ LIVING SPACE

6.3 - CHOIR RENOVATION

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The chancel of the Saint-Maclou chapel is decorated with fleur-de-lis. It likely dates from the 11th century and is the oldest part of the building. Apart from some imposing furnishings that conceal its dilapidated state, the entire chapel, from floor to ceiling, is severely deteriorated.
The walls and ceiling are covered in dirt, peeling paint, cracks, saltpeter, damaged or crumbling plaster, detached pieces, and partially erased illuminations.
The floor is covered with stained flagstones, some of which are loose.

SUGGESTIONS

● <u>The Walls</u>
Stripping the walls and treating the stones (against crumbling and dampness), applying and smoothing an insulating plaster, and painting with lime.
Reproducing the fleur-de-lis motifs and cornice illuminations in their original size and color. Installing picture rails around the perimeter to allow for exhibitions.
● <u>The Ceiling</u>
Stripping the ceiling, repairing the joints between the slats, replacing any damaged slats, applying and smoothing an insulating plaster, and painting with lime.
● <u>The Floor</u>
Repairing any loose tiles, stripping, cleaning, and sanding the entire surface, and applying a finishing treatment.

<u>Optional</u>
Consider installing infrared radiant heating, with individual units positioned at cornice level. A timer system would optimize energy consumption according to needs and allow for remote activation.



General view of the choir



Representative detail of the state of the walls



Detail of the cornice delimiting the walls and ceiling



Ceiling detail



Floor detail



Sacristy door



Side door - North facade

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6/ LIVING SPACE

6.4 - RENOVATION OF THE SACRISTY

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The sacristy of the Saint-Maclou chapel likely dates from the 16th century; it is the most recent part of the building.
The walls show signs of dirt, peeling paint, cracks, saltpeter, deteriorated or crumbling plaster, and detached pieces.
The floor is covered with stained earthenware tiles, some of which are loose. Lacking adequate storage, this room, dedicated to the clergy, is often cluttered with various objects and resembles a collection of stashes.
On the east facade, a window fitted with a PVC vent stands out in its design.

SUGGESTIONS

• <u>The walls</u>
Stripping the walls and treating the stones (against crumbling and dampness), applying and smoothing an insulating plaster, and painting with lime paint.
• <u>The floor</u>
Repairing any loose tiles, stripping, cleaning, and sanding the entire surface, and applying a finishing treatment.
• <u>The window</u>
Replacing this window with a stained-glass window, which will give this room an appearance in keeping with the surroundings.
Creating and drilling a ventilation opening in the wall, and installing a grille embedded in the stone.
• <u>Storage</u>
Creating a light oak storage cabinet on the north facade, covering the entire wall, in which household equipment and religious items will be stored, with a clergy changing room compartment.

<u>Optional</u>
Consider installing an individual infrared radiant heater, positioned above the entrance door. A timer system would optimize consumption according to needs and allow for remote start-up.



Detail of the north facade view



Detail of the south facade view



Detail of the base



Ceiling detail



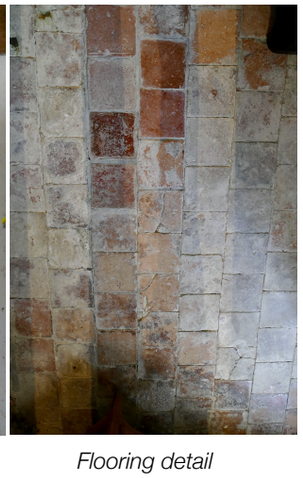
Door leading to the choir



West facade view



Detail of the view from the north angle



Flooring detail



6/ LIVING SPACE

6.5 - PATHS FOR THE FAITHFUL, CLERGY STALLS AND ACCESS DOORS

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The clergy stalls are positioned on either side of the chancel.
These chapel clergy stalls are rarely used. With their solid appearance, they have withstood the test of time relatively unscathed. Made of solid wood seats and benches, they have been stained a dark color to match the altarpiece and the main altar table. The overall effect is austere.

<u>The platforms for the faithful</u>

Likely made of pine, they have undergone some restoration and a great deal of patching.
Placed on a platform, they are badly damaged in places.
Depending on the costs involved, the question of replacement or restoration arises.

<u>The access doors</u>

A double door provides access to the chapel, as well as another side door on the north facade which leads to the chancel.
A final door provides access to the sacristy.
These three doors require restoration, including the woodwork, hinges, and locks.

SUGGESTIONS

<u>First option</u>

- Dismantling of the entire structure, including the platforms, and replacement of defective parts ;
- Repair of the bases and joinery-style fastening, removing the iron brackets ;
- Stripping, cleaning, and treatment of the wood, application of a clear varnish ;
- Upholstery of the seats with stain- and moisture-resistant fabric.

<u>Second option</u>

- Removal of all the platforms for worshippers and both platforms ;
- Acquisition of chairs with either fabric or straw seats.

<u>Access doors</u>

- Cleaning, stripping, and treatment of the wood ;
- Inspection of the locks and anchor points ;
- Replacing the simple bolt with a traditional lock on the main door.

<u>Note</u>

The chair option may allow for greater flexibility in the use of space.



Clergy stall, north facade



Clergy stall, south facade



Accessible to worshippers



Detail of a base and its fixing



Worshippers' platforms - details of damage and makeshift repairs

6/ LIVING SPACE

6.6 - PERIPHERAL FACILITIES: THE BAPTISTERY, THE CONFESSIONAL ROOM, AND THE HARMONIUM

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

Formerly a parish church, the Saint-Maclou chapel contains a baptistery, a confessional, and once had a harmonium, which has since disappeared.

The confessional

It has already undergone partial renovation, but its structure remains very fragile.

The baptistery

Its lid is made of wood, while its receptacle and base are made of stone.
Its illuminations have almost completely disappeared.
Its overall condition requires restoration.

The harmonium

This instrument, which was positioned on the platform to the left of the entrance on the north side of the facade, has disappeared.
It would be worthwhile to search for a replacement.

SUGGESTIONS

The Confessional

Reinforce the structure by strengthening the joints of the three elements and the back of the piece.
Stripping, sanding, and treating the entire piece, then applying a wood stain that allows the natural color of the wood to show through.
Reinstall curtains in the compartments for the congregation and clergy.

The Baptistery

Stripping, sanding, and treating the lid.
Painting in the original color, including the trim and decorative elements.
Cleaning the base and applying a primer coat before repainting the original decoration in the original color.

The Harmonium

Search for a new harmonium.
Consider preserving and restoring the platform and railing, and/or removing them.
Cleaning, sanding, and treating the surfaces before applying a clear wood stain.



Right at the entrance: the baptistery and the confessional



The confessional



The baptistery



On the stage, that was the place where the harmonium had disappeared !

6/ LIVING SPACE

6.7 - RESTORATION OF THE CANVASES OF THE ALTARPIECE AND THE NORTH AND SOUTH ALTAR

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The Saint-Maclou chapel features three paintings positioned above its altarpiece and its two side altars, north and south.
Subject to expert analysis, it can be assumed that these paintings date from the 15th or 16th century.
They show signs of restoration that appear not to have been carried out according to best practices. Tears, makeshift repairs, sagging canvas, and flaking paint are representative of their current condition.
However, despite this unfortunate situation, given the expertise of specialists in the field and current techniques, it is entirely feasible to restore these paintings.
These paintings are an integral part of the chapel and its heritage ; as such, they deserve to be restored to their original state and included in a restoration program.

SUGGESTIONS

- Find and hire local craftsmen who specialize in painting restoration.



Canvas of the North altar depicting the Assumption



Canvas of the South altar depicting the Annunciation



North altar cloth
Detail representative of a state of deterioration



The altarpiece depicts the Flagellation of Christ

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6/ LIVING SPACE

6.8 - STAINED GLASS WINDOWS CHECK

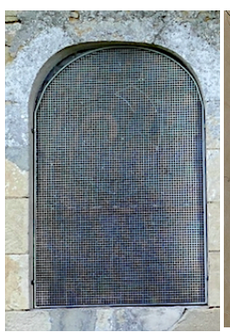
CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The eight stained-glass windows of the Saint-Maclou chapel adorn the chancel (3) and the nave (5). Donated by prominent figures in the region, they hold a significant place in the chapel's history. While they appear to be in very good overall condition, it is advisable, for safety reasons, to have them inspected by a master glassmaker.
Each of these stained-glass windows is protected externally by a wire mesh mounted on a metal frame.
It would be beneficial to remove these protective coverings to restore the windows and carry out any necessary repairs.
The sacristy window remains to be modified to accommodate a stained-glass window.
Discussions are currently underway with a potential patron who may be willing to finance this project.
The atmosphere of the sacristy would be transformed as a result.

SUGGESTIONS

Have each stained-glass window inspected by a master glassmaker.
- Clean the glass and joints ;
- Remove the external protective frames, restore them, and carry out the necessary repairs ;
- Remove the sacristy window and replace it with a new stained-glass window.





Exterior protective grille

Sacristy window



6/ LIVING SPACE

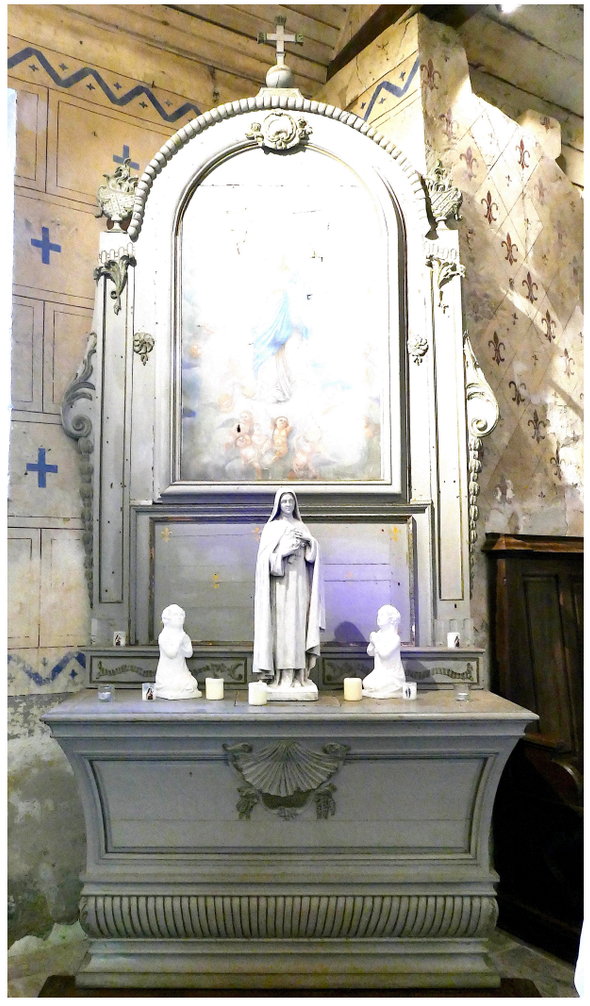
6.9 - RESTORATION OF THE WOOD OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH ALTARS

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The north altar, dating from the Louis XV period, is adorned with a painting depicting the Assumption.
The older south altar is adorned with a painting depicting the Annunciation ; the Sacred Heart of Mary is painted on the front of the altar.
Although both altars have already undergone restoration, further work is needed to protect the woodwork, consolidate the structures, and restore the ornamentation, illuminations, and paintings in front of the altars.

SUGGESTIONS

- Removal of the canvases (in preparation for their restoration) ;
- Removal of the altars and reinforcement of the structures ;
- Treatment, stripping, and exposing the wood ;
- Preparation of surfaces for painting ;
- Painting, including restoration of the ornaments and the facade of the South altar (Heart of Mary) ;
- Removal of the platforms (saving space) ;
- Installation of a rolling varnishing system for leveling and moving the altar.



View of the North Altar



View of the South Altar



6/ LIVING SPACE

6.10 - RESTORATION OF THE ALTAR OF THE ALTAR

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The chancel altarpiece is a massive element, accentuated by its dark color.
This color is not original; as in many religious buildings, altarpieces were likely repainted during the 18th century.
The original colors (light blue, cardinal red, and gold borders) can still be seen in places beneath the flaking paint.
Overall, this altarpiece requires a comprehensive restoration, which will involve reworking all the decorative elements after thorough stripping and surface treatment.

SUGGESTIONS

- Removal of the canvas (in preparation for its restoration) ;
- Removal of the altarpiece and reinforcement of its structure ;
- Treatment, stripping, and exposing the wood ;
- Preparation of surfaces for painting ;
- Painting with restoration of the ornaments in their original colors ;
- Redesign of the platform for optimal use, particularly for hosting choirs (integrating the addition to create a cohesive whole) ;
- Repair of the tabernacle, replacement of its key.



View of the altarpiece



6/ LIVING SPACE

6.11 - RESTORATION OF STATUE

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

Polychrome wooden statues of Saint Marcouf and Saint Maclou

In the choir, on either side of the altarpiece, there is a representation of Saint Marcouf as an abbot on the left and a representation of Saint Maclou as a bishop on the right.

These two polychrome wooden statues need thorough cleaning and treatment to revive their colors. A more extensive restoration will be necessary for Saint Marcouf, whose right hand is badly damaged.

Wooden statue of the crucifix of Jesus Christ

In seemingly satisfactory condition, it requires thorough cleaning and treatment to revive its color.

Stone statue of the small Virgin in the sacristy

Apart from a basic cleaning, it does not require any special intervention.

Stone statues of Saint Marcouf in the niche on the west facade and on the north facade inside the nave

As a precaution, the stone should be checked for signs of aging; no special intervention appears to be necessary.

SUGGESTIONS

For the representations of Saint Marcouf and Saint Maclou

Removal, cleaning, and treatment; intervention to revive the color.

Checking the base and its attachment.

Restoration of Saint Marcouf's hand.

For the crucifix

Removal, cleaning, and treatment of the wood; intervention to revive the color.

To be reinstalled above the entrance door inside the chapel on the west facade.

For the stone statues of Saint Marcouf

Cleaning and treatment of the stone.

For the statue of the Virgin Mary

Cleaning.



Statue of Saint Marcouf



Statue of Saint-Maclou



Wooden crucifix



Detail of the right hand of Saint-Marcouf



Little Virgin in the sacristy



Saint-Marcouf in the niche of the west facade



Saint-Marcouf on the north facade of the nave

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6/ LIVING SPACE

6.12 - FURNITURE AND LITURGICAL OBJECTS

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The chapel no longer has its own liturgical objects, which necessitates borrowing those from nearby churches whenever needed.

Liturgical Objects

Liturgical objects include sacred vessels and linens.
The sacred vessels are the paten, ciborium, chalice, and cruets.
The linens are the altar cloths, corporal, pall, purificator, and manuterge.

The Intermediate Altar

Since the main altar is no longer used, or only rarely, a raised table, cobbled together with a medium-density fiberboard base, serves as an intermediate altar.
Positioned at the boundary between the chancel and the nave, this altar table is too large and unsuitable for the available space.

The Lectern

The existing lectern is unstable and unsuitable for supporting missals, which can be quite large and heavy.



Intermediate altar consisting of a table raised on a medium-density fiberboard base

SUGGESTIONS

Liturgical Objects

There may be opportunities to acquire liturgical objects from a chapel or a deconsecrated church.
Furthermore, there must be organizations that collect these objects and could offer them for sale.
The cost will certainly be less than buying new items.

The Altar and Lectern

Purchase or search for an altar whose dimensions and design are compatible with the chapel.

IN CONCLUSION

As we announced during the presentation of the Executive Summary on January 17, 2025, this new document outlining the current state and suggestions provides us with a comprehensive overview of the chapel and its surroundings, while also suggesting potential future projects.

In this regard, we focused on identifying and describing all emerging needs, from the chapel's immediate surroundings to its interior living space.

Our aim was to leave no stone unturned in order to offer the municipality, the property owner, a complete vision of what this project could entail.

With this scope defined, it will be easier for the project stakeholders to validate the various proposals, agree on priorities, understand their starting point, and identify where they can collectively move forward.

This document also aims to provide visibility to future patrons and/or potential investors by offering them a comprehensive vision of a project that integrates both environmental factors and the very structure of the building to be restored.

It aims to give these patrons and/or investors a vision of a structured and well-considered approach in which every contribution will be made with overall coherence in mind.

We do not underestimate the scale of the task required to successfully implement all the suggestions we have outlined.

The realization of our proposed suggestions depends on the acceptance of the Municipality of Mézidon Vallée d'Auge, in accordance with the criteria that will be defined, and within a timeframe dictated by securing the necessary funding.

We hope that this document is comprehensive and that it will allow us to collectively validate its core principles.

We are at the disposal of the municipality of Mézidon Vallée d'Auge to assist in the implementation of the decisions made.

In this regard, we affirm our commitment to a long-term partnership, working and reflecting together to bring this project to fruition.

Henri-Jean LEPETIT
President of the association Les Amis de la Chapelle de Saint-Maclou



Scan this QR code to access the Chapel of Saint-Maclou