

## Church Facilities Project – Timeline

Updated: 27/07/21

Practical building work in St Andrew’s church started on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with Clarke Construction Group Ltd. This report summarises how the work is progressing. I hope you will find it interesting and agree that your kind donations are being well spent.

As the story unfolds, you’ll see that the contractor has made excellent progress to create a new facility for community use. As you know, it’s more than just a toilet/servery. The reordering will create a flexible space for wider community use which it is hoped you will want to take advantage of.

In mid-June, heavy rain caused further leaks into the church that need urgent repair. The leak above the new servery will be repaired by the contractor. That will, of course, be at extra cost and incur a slight delay to completion. You’ll doubtless be aware of the widespread material shortages caused by the pandemic: this has led to a short extension to the forecast completion date of the end of July. Once the building work is complete, to mark the reopening of the church we are planning a ‘celebration’ in the evening on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. We’ll let you know further details as soon as we can.

We will need help to clean the church once the contractors have left. We’ll let you know the date/time as soon as we are able. Please have mops and buckets at the ready!!

Also, we have only just got on contract with the drainage sub-contractor and there is currently up to a 10 week delay in LCC Highways approval for connection permission. We will be able to use the new facilities once that work is complete so we are planning a social event in the evening on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October followed by a Harvest Festival All Age Service with light refreshments at 11:00 am on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Again, we’ll let you know further details as soon as we can.

<p><b>Week 1 (Mon 24 May)</b> The church is transformed after Charlotte and Joe’s wedding on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May ...</p>	
<p>... to a building site on the Monday! Work started quickly with removal of the pews, dismantling of the wooden vestry and digging trenches in the churchyard for the water supply and foul drainage. The pews that were</p>	

removed have all gone to people in our village. We've recycled as much as possible: bricks, wood, metal, the old boiler and even the old curtains in the Tower were reused to wrap the remains uncovered during trench digging in the churchyard.



### Week 2 (Mon 31 May)

With the back rows of pews removed, graves and old ventilation shafts were uncovered. One joist had an inscription dating from when they were laid in the 1870s.



Trench digging continued in Week 2. The churchyard becoming more like a WWI battlefield. Many unarticulated remains were uncovered under the watchful eye of an archaeologist. The early June weather was very pleasant for the time of year ... that is, unless you were hand digging a trench!



Inside the church, the foundations for new toilet ... where the vestry once was and for the new open floor space ... where the pews once were ... continued under the watchful eye of building control inspectors.



Week 3 (Mon 7 Jun) - reinterred the bones (Photo 7) - trench work finished (Photo 8) - holes drilled in wall (Photo 9) - electrical work underway (Photo 10)



**Week 3 (Mon 7 June)**

With the trench digging complete, the water and drainage pipes laid, Father Aran reinterred the uncovered remains in a short 'poignant' service and the trenches were filled in leaving the churchyard peaceful if not a little worse for wear!



Meanwhile, holes were drilled through the Nave and Tower walls (ventilation/electrical wiring). The walls were built to last – they are more than a metre thick so a specialist company did the job with their diamond tipped drills.



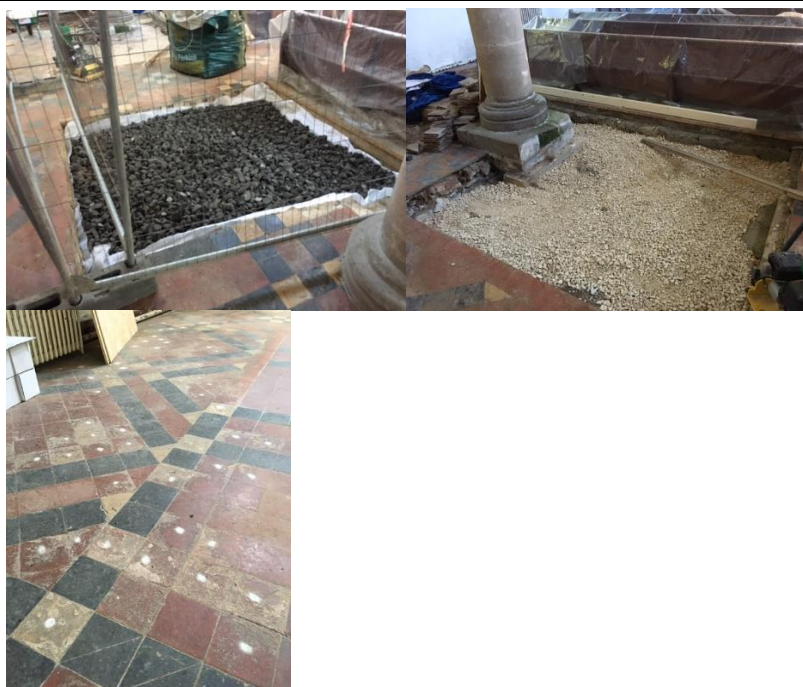
Electrical work got underway in earnest in Week 3 ... just like wiring a plug ... only bigger.



#### **Week 4 (Mon 14 June)**

In the church, the foundations for toilet enclosure were completed and the foundations laid where the pews had been removed. That's not coal ... it's recycled glass.

For the new floor space, the existing quarry tiles had an outbreak of white spots. There were the 150 tiles that would be replaced.



Work continued in Weeks 5 and 6 but were paced by material shortages

On 18 June, it rained very heavily and leaks occurred in several places not previously seen. Of particular concern was a leak in the Nave directly above the new facilities and another above the organ (which happily was covered in plastic sheeting for dust prevention).

### **Week 7 (Mon 5 July)**

The toilet enclosure frame was completed and the plumbing installation commenced.



### **Week 8 (Mon 12 July)**

Plumbing was completed and approved by our independent heating consultant. Try to avoid the thought that you'll need a PhD in engineering to operate the controls.

Floor tiling started to take shape and the electrical wiring installation continued.

By the end of Week 9, the toilet wooden enclosure and plasterwork were completed.

The servery, vestry enclosure and Tower screen are being built off-site. They will be installed in the next few weeks (dates to be confirmed) but we expect the building to reopen by September.

We will need help to clean once the contractors have left. Please have mops and buckets at the ready!!



We finally got on contract with the drainage contractor. LCC highways permission to connect is currently 8-10 weeks so the work will not start until early October. For drain connection, Church Lane will not be closed. We are planning to 'open' the new facilities once that work is complete towards the end of October.