

Church Facilities Project – Timeline

Updated: 20/10/21

Practical building work in St Andrew's church started on Monday 24th 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.

Coincidentally, during the week that the building work started, a swathe of plaster fell off the Chancel ceiling. Also, in mid-June, heavy rain caused further leaks into the church that need urgent repair. The Chancel ceiling plaster and the leak above the new servery have been repaired by the contractor. That, of course, has incurred extra cost and 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. Connection of the foul drain by another contractor has also suffered delays due to the pandemic and backlog of similar work. The estimated date for this connection is the first week of November.

To mark the reopening of the church albeit without a fully working servery or loo, we held a 'celebration' in the evening on Sunday 26th September. .It was great to hear the bells ring out and singing in church for the first time in more than 18 months. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

Our next social event will be a concert titled 'October Light' on Saturday 30th October starting at 7:30pm. Please come and join us to continue our light hearted entertainment celebrating completion of the building work and church re-opening featuring West Deeping's very own 'Belles', The Lincolnshire Poachers', skits by Stamford Shoestring Theatre and much more! Refreshments will be served during the interval. Everyone is welcome: please come along! There will be no entry fee but donations to the facilities project gratefully received.

Our Harvest All Age Service will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday 31st October followed by light refreshments. All food gifts will go to Deepings Foodbank and donations to Afghan Refugees.

Please look out for further social events and services as we look towards Christmas.

Week 1 (Mon 24 May)

The church is transformed after Charlotte and Joe's wedding on Saturday 22nd May ...



... 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 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 reinterrred 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.





W/C Mon 2 August

The servery, vestry enclosure and Tower screen were built off-site and transported to the church for assembly by the joiner.

The cabinet will be the new Vestry Cupboard and the Tower screen provides a tasteful separation of the new multi-use Tower from the Nave.



W/C Mon 9 Aug

The toilet cubical plastering, installation of the loo facilities and building the servery were completed during August.



W/C 16 Aug

The leak which was dripping onto the new toilet/servery was repaired by Clarke. This involved extending the existing tile crease course on the buttress between the Tower spire and the Nave roof. Let's pray it stops the leak!

The damage caused by the ingress of water down the inside Nave wall is the subject of an insurance claim and we hope will be made good in the New Year.

The Chancel Ceiling was inspected for safety and re-plastered in mid-August using scaffolding as shown in the photo.



W/C 23 Aug

The installation of the servery was completed at the end of August. Apart from being a great improvement with modern facilities, as can be seen, the oak finish is a tasteful backdrop to the open area as you enter the church.

South Kesteven Community Fund has awarded us a grant for the purchase of new chairs and tables for social events.



Saturday 20 Sep

Thank you to everyone who 'mucked in' to clean the church.

After our intrepid band of willing volunteers cleaned up 3 months of muck, dust and bat droppings, the church looked back at its brilliant best for the 'Songs of Celebration' light entertainment event on



Saturday 26th September.

The event was a great success. Thank you to everyone who made the event so enjoyable.



Saturday 26 Sep

At the Songs of Celebration event, a plaque was unveiled to give grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the project. You'll see it located above the servery as you enter church.



We are on contract with the drainage contractor and LCC highways permission to connect has been granted. The work is currently expected to commence on 02/11/2021. Church Lane will not be closed..