

Restoration work on South Aisle

Just when we thought we were moving forward with the appointment of an Architect & the submittal of the Faculty (Planning application to the DAC) for the intended restoration work, we have just received feedback from the DAC to say that additional & more technical details are required to ensure that the work is in accordance with the requirements of the applicable building specifications & regulations and to eliminate any grey areas during the restoration work.

So to address these concerns from the DAC we have now changed direction slightly & contacted a Structural Engineer with details of the DAC feedback who we hope will apply the necessary expertise and provide answers to the issues raised in time to re-submit our revised Faculty for the next DAC meeting at the end of June.

We are gradually approaching the £50k mark for the work currently identified and as you will be aware all efforts are being made to raise funds towards payment for this work which was provisionally scheduled to start mid-August this year to achieve completion before winter is upon us again.

If we can still achieve our start date of mid-August then the radiators will soon have to be removed after draining down the heating system in church and the main feed pipe in the south aisle will have to be protected with timber shuttering and the pews removed from the working area.

A barrier, in the form of plywood sheeting, will then be erected approx. 8 feet from the south aisle wall and down the full length of the south aisle to segregate the work area from the rest of church and to provide additional security for the church.

Robinsons Preservation Ltd (RPL) will then start to remove the brick infill & the rotten oak timber in each block, (each block being the bricked infill in between timber supports) and commence the restoration work step by step until all blocks are completed and restored back to our requirements.

Critically both for the users of the church and the public the restoration work must be treated as a construction site, so the appropriate Health & Safety Regulations will apply and signage will be located around the working areas prior to starting and throughout to completion. These safety rules 'as far as is reasonably practicable' are a key factor in ensuring we and especially the public are NOT put at any greater risk to injury than if the restoration work was not present.