

St Mary's, Thakeham

Building for the People to the Glory of God

More details about our project can be found on our website:

<https://www.stmarysthakeham.org/category/building-project/>



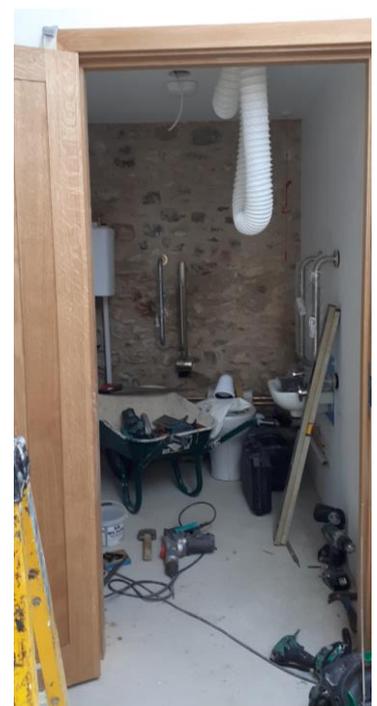
Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst

Same family, Two parishes, Working together.

June/July News

Phase 2 (External Stonework and Extension)

Handover of this phase is now in sight and due to happen around early August with internal and external work visibly nearing completion. Work within the church (phase 3) will take until the autumn to complete.



The new extension at the back of the church (photo taken 23rd June): Views of the outside and inside

Phase 3 (internal refurbishment and redecoration)

Builders' efforts to source materials with limited availability have so far meant that the programme of works has continued without further delays. We were very sorry to learn that a road closure scheduled for 3 days had to be extended slightly because of an unrelated electricity supply emergency nearby which had to be resolved first and we are very thankful to our neighbours for their patience.

Apart from that progress inside the church has been good. Removal of a lot of old plaster is now being followed by the stripping out of old and installation of new services (electrical, heating, lighting and VA).

Along with our vicar, Sara-Jane we are also hoping to re-bury soon around 68 skeletons found buried beneath the old vestry and other structures at the back of the church. A date hasn't been confirmed at the time of writing.



A few snapshots from inside the church
(dated 23rd June 2021)

New door joinery at the South porch

The pulpit with steps after its rotation to
remove a trip hazard: Previously steps
protruded into the aisle leading to the North
Transept

Not yet funded: Phase 4

This phase has been estimated to cost in the region of £300,000 to complete. The most costly part of it (approx. 2/3) would be stonework with other external repairs to and repointing of the Tower.

A new mezzanine level with a bell ringing area would also be created and installation of a kitchenette at ground level would complete the scheme which of course would be much more cost effective to complete while builders remain on site, however, funds are not yet available at time of writing.

We continue to give thanks:

For donations, small grants and VAT refunds received, ongoing good safety management on site and good progress in spite of challenges with availability of some materials.

We continue to pray:

- For the successful delivery of the remainder of phase 2 (nearing completion) and for phase 3 (due to be completed in the autumn).
- For funding of phase 4.
- For ongoing protection for the team, their safety and wellbeing.

For safety reasons access to a small part of the church yard around the church remains restricted. If you need to visit this area please feel free to contact:

- Symon, our site manager from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 4pm (07736 550841) or
- Cliff, our project leader outside of working hours (07765 530370).

Rev'd Sara-Jane Stevens

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