

St Mary's, Thakeham



Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst

Same family, Two parishes, Working together.

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/>

July/August 2021

Phase 2 (External Stonework and Extension): Nearly there!

Stonework repairs to the main body of the church were of course completed a while ago and at time of writing just a few more tasks remain before the new extension is complete which is very exciting! Photos show the North facing external façade and our vicar Sara-Jane at her new desk in the multi functional vestry/creche/meeting room.



Phase 3 (internal refurbishment and redecoration)

You've heard of watching paint dry...while work on services such as electric wiring, heating and new PA continues within the church our architect and Valley Builders are monitoring our ancient stone walls to gauge when these have dried sufficiently for internal re-plastering to commence. The signs so far are good and summer weather is helping a lot. We anticipate completion of phase 3 in late autumn.

A re-burial of over 60 skeletons found during groundworks on the North side of the church is due to happen before the autumn and will be led by our vicar, Sara-Jane.



Photographs show:

1. The South Transept with our church organ covered by protective layers is shown in the centre. 'Transept' is expert speak for a worship space attached to the main church aisle (the 'nave') at right angles.
2. The doorway from the church to the new extension.

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.

Having received some very positive feedback we would also like to thank Valley Builders and their team for their kind and sympathetic attitude towards visitors to the graveyard.

We continue to pray:

- For the successful delivery of the remainder of phase 2 (nearing completion) and for phase 3

Almost all access restrictions to the church yard have now been removed although occasional short closures may be needed for delivery of materials or landscaping during the working week. If you wish to visit and are unsure of access arrangements please 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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