

A few words from the Vicar

Well, our building project is almost complete. By the time you read this, it probably will be complete. Yippee!

I must say, I am thankful that there have been no hitches so far; the project has run to time and there has been no disruption to the smooth running of our Church. The project has run very smoothly indeed, thanks to the hard work of the contractor, our architect and Chris our Buildings Officer.

We have a lot to be thankful for. Not least because, during the project, we discovered that our church building was in a worse state than we thought. For example:

- three of the tower pinnacles were found to be loose;
- repointing revealed a man-sized void inside one of our walls; and
- when the chimney was taken down ready for straightening, several of the stones simply crumbled away.

Well, there are always surprises in any project involving old church buildings. Indeed, I am grateful these things were found and fixed because, had they not, we could have been facing some serious building issues in several years' time. I'm an Accountant by profession, not a Structural Engineer, but the potential consequences of those issues remaining undiscovered does not bear thinking about!

So, I approach the end of the project with a sense of gratitude; gratitude for the hard work and professionalism of those directly involved in managing the project and bringing it to a successful conclusion; gratitude for the hard work that went into fund raising and applying for grants; and gratitude for the generosity and prayers of the many.

Above all though, I am thankful to God for His wonderful provision, for His generosity in ensuring our building has a future. A reminder that God is always in control and His blessings are without number.

What next?

Well, replacing the sound system is a definite priority. In that regard, I am grateful for the generosity of our parents and toddlers' group, ABC, who recently donated £500 towards the cost of a new system. If we lay down a firm foundation of prayer, I am confident we can do this.

Likewise, there is further work that needs to be undertaken around the building. For example, the remaining walls require repointing.

But we must never lose sight of the reason we work hard ensuring our church building is well-maintained and fit for purpose. We are a Church; we are neither a historic building preservation society nor a club. Our priority in life is to worship God and to make it possible for others to join us in worshipping Him. Our next priority is to engage in mission and evangelism; to serve the world in the love of Jesus and to encourage others to come to a saving faith in Him.

And for those things, we need a fully functional building! So, let us thank God for the successful completion of our building project, and let us thank Him that the long-term future of our wonderful church building is now assured.

Every Blessing

Dave