

NEWSLETTER

News from the
'Patience'
project
July 2026

The 'Patience project' rises above ground

Any building project will start by going below ground, and the 'Patience' project is no exception. Over the first 3 months, extensive work has been done to remove Victorian woodwork and earth inside the church and to excavate and install firm foundations for the new Annexe outside.

The walls of the Annexe are now rising and over the next three months it is anticipated that much of the external structure will be built. According to the programme submitted by our builders, Ekins Ltd of Hertford, the masonry work should be completed by the end of September and the roof by 1st December.

Our Vision

A flexible, warm and welcoming space at the heart of the community

If you have any questions or comments arising from what you read, please feel free to contact the Vicar: Revd Charles Burch
vicar@stlawrencebovingdon.com



Be the Building Blocks of Our Community

Inside the church

Once the pews and the wooden platforms had been removed, the builders could excavate the floor to the correct depth and then lay several layers of insulation before installing the under floor heating coils. At the same time, extensive electrical cabling work has been carried out to control the heating and other systems which will be installed later on in the build.

In early July the heating coils were covered with a limecrete floor, onto which slate tiles will eventually be laid. Meanwhile the interior of the church will be decorated and a low platform built in front of the chancel. This will provide a focal point and greater visibility for worship as well as concerts and events.

Visitors have commented on how light and spacious the church now feels, even though it is a busy building site.



Why use Lime?

Limecrete is a lime-based flooring which is more breathable than concrete, can allow vapour to escape and reduce damp and mould issues. It's very flexible and will absorb movement well, making it an ideal choice when tiling over underfloor heating. A greener product than concrete, limecrete has a lower manufacturing carbon footprint, reabsorbs CO2 and can be recycled.

Photo: Ekins staff Jason and Eamon using lime based mortar at the junction of the church and Annexe. All external brick and flint work will use lime mortar.



The Annexe

The first task in the churchyard was to carefully protect existing graves and gravestones with a wooden frame covered in durable black sheeting. Then the excavation work began, first of all digging a series of one metre depth pits into which concrete was poured, forming the pillars of the Annexe.



Concrete was pumped over the church roof to provide foundations

Next, all the drainage and underground services were carefully laid, including new clean and waste water pipes which go all the way to the east perimeter of the churchyard. Finally, a series of steel reinforced concrete ground beams were installed, onto which the walls of the Annexe are now being built.

Business as usual (almost)

Sunday services have continued uninterrupted at the Memorial Hall, taking full advantage of the open space to set out chairs in gently curved rows, in anticipation of the way we will be able to worship when we return to church. Funerals and weddings are taking place at St Paul's Church in Chipperfield.



Thank you!

We've raised an incredible £1.6m through the sale of our old Hall and the generosity of grant making Trusts and members of our congregation and local community. If you've already given to our campaign, a heartfelt thank you!

How can you help?

Join one of our Donor Recognition Circles by giving £1,000 or more to our campaign. Your name will be added to a specially designed display in the foyer of the new Annexe

- Silver Circle: £1,000 and above
- Gold Circle: £5,000 and above
- Ryder Circle: £25,000 and above

Details on our website

www.stlawrencebovingdon.com or



Support our '180' campaign!

Sponsor a chair, brick or roof tile: details on our website www.stlawrencebovingdon.com or via this QR code



Contact

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Creating a Community Hub

This project will benefit the whole community of Bovingdon. Over the next 12 months the project team will be working to ensure that, when the new facility opens, it will operate as a lively community hub. This includes working with local organisations, shaping a clear vision for the hub, building partnerships, putting management arrangements in place and making sure it is financially sustainable.

We will have a fantastic community space and would love to hear from community groups and event organisers – from bridge to yoga, sewing to singing, drama to discussion, – who may be interested in using the new Annexe, the main church space, or both.



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH
BOVINGDON

Serving the Community