

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING, 28th JULY 2021

A REPORT SENT FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR:

So, we are nearly there! A few minor tweaks and finishing touches and we will have our facilities.

It's been a long road and there are many people who have been involved along the way which has resulted in the successful completion of this long-awaited project.

It has been an interesting challenge to bring together all the elements of fundraising, managing the architects and builders, and the church and local authorities to get to where we are today.

I have enjoyed working with Julia, Phillipa and the PCC in getting us to this point. Even though Steve and I decided to up sticks and move to Devon, with the help of technology and a few trips back for project meetings, I have still been able to keep on top of things.

The church now has what it needs to be able to expand its activities and bring together the community and those further afield with its 21st century facilities.

I very much look forward to the formal opening and Thanksgiving Service in October.

Gill Wilson

REPORT NEW FACILITIES:

2020:

The following information is that provided in the Annual Report for 2020:-

The project is for an exterior toilet extension, a servery / interior gathering area behind the font and a new path. There was a terrific response to the local fundraising appeal in the summer. Grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the project. Through the generosity of those people in the village, others who support the church, and other grant givers we were able to secure the money required to begin the work.

Permission from all the necessary authorities took a long time, a significant delay was caused by AVDC Planning Dept. Work eventually started on 29th September but even more delays were incurred:

- An archaeology find required significant time for recording and reporting
- Plans had to be slightly changed due to this find
- Delay by AVDC in approving the revised plans missed a deadline for ordering and cutting the stone
- The weather was then too cold for work to continue due to the minimum temperature required for the lime mortar

The work was due to finish at the end of February but this will not be achieved because of the delays. The architect and builders have been extremely patient and helpful during this difficult time. The level of workmanship is superb and the end result will be facilities befitting the wonderful church that we are so fortunate to have in our parish. It has to be remembered that permission to have these facilities was only granted because of the high specification.

2021:

Delays continued to affect the building work - these were mainly due to lack of building supplies, plus Covid related issues. The revised date for completion was the end of June. Except for minor

outstanding items, the refreshment area was finished by then and the Disability Toilet was in use, just in time for the Teas at the Open Gardens afternoon on 4th July.

As there is no delivery date for certain items it is not possible to give the date that the whole project will be finished.

The electricity for the new facilities area is via a new Phase. Fortunately, Three Phase electricity was already installed at the church but only one Phase was previously in use.

Fibre optic broadband was installed by Gigaclear on 28th June. The wi-fi code will be provided to anyone who will find that useful while at the church. We are indebted to the Oxford Diocese who have awarded us an Internet Connectivity grant to cover the cost of this. Looking to the future, this will be a huge asset and increase the potential future use of the church, both for services and for general use. The newly installed broadband made it possible for payment to be made for the teas at the Open Gardens by debit/credit card.

The final cost is not yet known as certain items were changed from the original specification but the anticipated final cost is expected to be very close to the original cost of the project. There were additional fees incurred, mainly due to the extra archaeology work.

Future work will include the installation of a large screen.