

# NEWSLETTER

News from the  
'Patience'  
project  
March 2026

## The 'Patience project' - getting ready to build!

After 12 years of planning and three years of fund raising, we are at last getting ready to build. Our appointed contractor, Ekins Ltd of Hertford, will arrive on site on April 20th and begin a 12 month project to build our new Annexe and reorder the inside of the church.

This newsletter carries a number of details about the project, its timing, how we have got here and the exciting future that lies in store for our church.

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](mailto:vicar@stlawrencebovingdon.com)

### Inside:

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*Photo: Fencing has already arrived on site*

# The journey so far

(or, why the project is called 'Patience')

It has been 13 years since we wrote our first Statement of Need, and 11 years since we appointed our architect. Eight years ago we made our first pre application to our local planning authority, Dacorum Borough Council and four years ago (with a minor interruption due to Covid) we were granted planning permission, subsequently renewed in 2025.

But in reality this has been a journey of 30 or 40 years, as successive Vicars and congregations have discussed and devised various schemes to provide St Lawrence with modern, comfortable and welcoming facilities to make it a church fit for the 21st century.

It is very apt that we launched the final part of our '180' fundraising campaign on the 180th anniversary of the rebuilding of our church. The vision of Granville Dudley Ryder and his colleagues, in 1846, was to provide a church which would serve the community and it has done that wonderfully for nearly two centuries. Now we have the opportunity to renew and broaden that vision and create a place that will serve Bovingdon for another 180 years.



## Our Vision

- A flexible, warm and welcoming space at the heart of the community
- A real community hub, in frequent use by both church and local residents
- A sustainable future for this beautiful building

# Moving out....

In the two weeks after Easter we will be preparing to move out of our beloved church building for 6 months while the contractors carry out the internal refurbishment of the church. Our last services in church will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Starting on 19<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday worship will take place in the Memorial Hall in the High Street, and weddings and funerals will be at St Paul's Chipperfield.

The church yard will remain open, as will the public footpath from Church St to the lych gate.



## What will it cost?

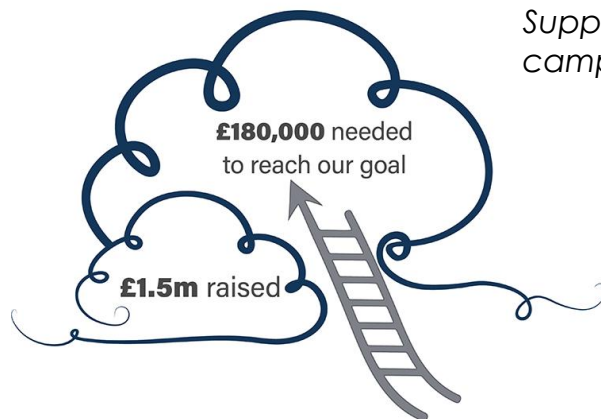
The first cost estimate we received in 2019 was for £1m. By 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the onset of inflation - particularly in the cost of building materials - that cost had risen to £1.4 million. When we started fundraising in 2023 we added a further contingency and set a target of £1.6 million.

In the summer of 2025 we went out to competitive tender and as a result selected Ekins Ltd of Hertford as our main contractor. With further inflation, and some extra design requirements resulting from new regulations, the total project cost now stands at £1.7 million.

Most of this money will be spent on the building contract itself, but the budget also includes professional fees for our architects, structural engineers, mechanical and electrical designers and our commercial team who will oversee the financial aspects of the build.



*St Peter's Church in St Albans have recently reordered their church, removing the pews and installing underfloor heating with modern wooden chairs.*



*Support our '180' campaign*

# Thank you!

We've raised an incredible £1.5m 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](http://www.stlawrencebovingdon.com) or

# 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.



## Support our '180' campaign!

Sponsor a chair, brick or roof tile: details on our website [www.stlawrencebovingdon.com](http://www.stlawrencebovingdon.com) or via this QR code



### Contact

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ST LAWRENCE CHURCH  
BOVINGDON

*Serving the Community*