

St Helens Church

March 2024 Update on Church re-ordering

We want to update you all about our new proposed facilities at Church.. We hope to have everything completed by 2026 when we will celebrate our church being 150 years old.

Below we list the key things that will be provided in stages, dependant upon funding availability:-

- Improving disabled access into the church, with ramp and handrails.
- Improving the access into the lobby which is particularly awkward for funerals.
- Creating space at the rear of the church for baptisms etc.
- Amending the plinth step to the font
- Providing a disabled WC.
- Provision of a kitchen to provide light refreshments typically after services and events.
- Creation of space within the nave in front of the chancel for more flexible use.
- Review the use of the north transept which has become a storage area.
- Reorder the Lady Chapel.
- Consideration of new principles of heating within the church for both Sundays and week days when usage is much reduced.
- Provision of new led lighting in church.

New heating and lighting will assist us in achieving carbon net zero targets by 2030.

Where are we now?

The permissions to do all the works above (the Faculty) has been submitted and should be approved soon from Durham Diocese.

Our Architect Kevin Doonan is tendering soon for the first phase which is for the outside ramp and the lobby doors(the entrance). Fundraising will also commence when we have accurate pricing.

Tony Gunning

Churchwarden.

