

# St Nicholas Church, East Challow, OXON

## Church Reordering Project: Final Report

The aim of the project is to sensitively introduce some modern facilities into the church building to make the building more accessible and welcoming to the community that we serve. It is seen as an important part of the church's mission and pastoral outreach to the wider community, and to make greater use of the church building for a wider range of worship and community activities.

The major construction work, from the main contractor Nelson Roofing and Building Ltd, and the significant in-kind contributions from members of the congregation are now complete. The work has involved the rearranging of the church entrance area to provide a more direct access, inclusion of a DDA WC, vestry, lobby area, store and kitchen facilities behind new oak screens at the west end of the nave. It has also included the associated installation of drainage to the main sewer across the churchyard, a ramped path to the main entrance to improve disabled access and renovation of the main door. The associated pictures show details of the completed works and the visual impact upon the interior of the building.





The work has been completed to a high standard, and has been most favourably received by the congregation, the wider community and visitors. The project has been completed in a much shorter timescale than originally envisaged, due to some sacrificial giving and a number of generous grants.

The major impacts are expected to be:

- Introduction of modern facilities into the church making it more accessible and welcoming to the wider community
- Provide a spiritual space more compatible with the needs of the elderly, disabled and young families.
- Provide a platform for the wider outreach and mission to our community
- Provide a space for greater non-worship community use.

Although it is too early to discern the long term impact, we can already see the potential of the reconfiguration and the ability to achieve our aims. The new facilities and the visual appeal have provided a renewed confidence and determination in the congregation.

The vastly improved disabled access has already been appreciated at our regular Sunday worship. The improved access for prams and pushchairs are being greatly appreciated at our new regular monthly family service; making the hospitality at those services more practical. The reordering has also allowed us to extend the children's / family area. The Disabled access toilet is clearly an asset, as seen at recent funerals where mourners often travel a long distance to attend. The advantages of the improved access has been clearly evident at recent funerals, for both mourners and pall-bearers. Although not rigorously tested in this recent warm spell of weather, the initial indications are that draught reduction will be significantly reduced.

The improved and extended facilities is encouraging a greater use of the church for our monthly church fellowship meetings. It enables the Church Fellowship to advertise and encourage a wider community audience and involvement in meeting with invited speakers. This has now happened at two recent meetings, with talks of a wide social and community interest, on Wills and Power of Attorney, and the local Food Bank.

Church members organise a 'prayer space' annually at our village church school, and following the reordering it will take place this autumn in church rather than at the school. This provides an important opportunity for the pupils to experience the spiritual environment of the church, in addition to their regular services throughout the year.

The PCC and congregation are now actively involved in exploring a range of ideas for wider spiritual and community use.

The project was completed within budget, and the final financial summary is as follows:

**Income.**

Fund raising / Direct Giving (including Gift Aid refund)	£21462
Grants	£38500
VAT recovered (to date, level of further recovery unknown)	£2090
Total	£62050

**Expenditure.** (including VAT)

Main Contractor	£56691
Architect etc fees	£5615
Other misc costs, including additional gas and electricity	£240
Total	£62546 (incl £6025 VAT)

Compiled by J Penfold, D Mann, on behalf on Incumbent, Churchwardens and PCC

26<sup>th</sup> July 2018