

WINGRAVE METHODIST CHURCH

STAGE 1 CLOSURE REPORT: 20 DECEMBER 2013

The last service to be held in the “old” church was on Sunday 22nd September 2013.



During the following week all of the furniture and fittings were removed and stored off site, either for subsequent reuse or for disposal. Wherever possible furniture and fittings which are surplus to requirements (the pews, wood from the dais, electrical heaters etc) have been passed on to new users, mainly residents of Wingrave or local charities in Aylesbury Vale.



The first areas of work were the installation of the new central heating and electrical systems and a start on making good the wooden panelling, walls and ceiling. However it was soon found that the condition of the walls was poor and that the ceiling was in a dangerous state. It was decided to reinforce and make good the ceiling prior to redecoration – an activity which was not included in the original project plan. This work required the construction of a scaffolding platform within the building – again something which was not envisaged in the original plan.





In late October the Church council met to decide on the colour scheme of the refurbished Church (walls and carpet) together with the design and colour of the new chairs. After much discussion with the help of sample boards a decision was reached and the chairs and carpets were ordered.



A decision was also reached on the design of a new dividing wall between the Church and schoolroom. A key factor influencing the decision was retention of the existing panels which were originally installed in the early part of the 20th century.

An important element of the project has been improvement of the insulation of the building. During November the insulation of the loft space was improved and the Church window panes were replaced with new double glazed units. In addition the opening sections of the windows were overhauled and new catches were fitted.



After the scaffolding was removed in mid November work started on preparing the floor for carpet laying. It was discovered that the wood block floor (which dated back to the early 20th century or earlier) was severely infected with dry rot. A decision was taken to remove the wood blocks and lay a new insulated chipboard floor – an unforeseen additional piece of work, but an essential one. At this stage the screen was also completed with two pairs of opening doors, allowing free access between the Church and schoolroom.



The last major activity was laying the carpet in both the Church and schoolroom.

With the building work completed on schedule by 13th December, the furniture and fittings were installed in time for the Christmas carol service on Sunday 22nd December





Report drafted by Andrew Muir 22nd December 2013