



## **Report on re-ordering project for the parish church of St Peter & St Paul Bassingbourn**



On 31 January 2026, following completion of the re-ordering of St Peter & St Paul Parish church in Bassingbourn, an open day for the village was held and over 400 people attended throughout the day.

The project started in mid-October 2024 and involved extracting both medieval and Victorian fixed pews and then removing plinths to enable levelling of the ground floor throughout. This enabled us to install underfloor heating and a new Ancaster Weatherbed stone floor, exposing the stone columns and creating a large, light accessible and versatile space in the nave.

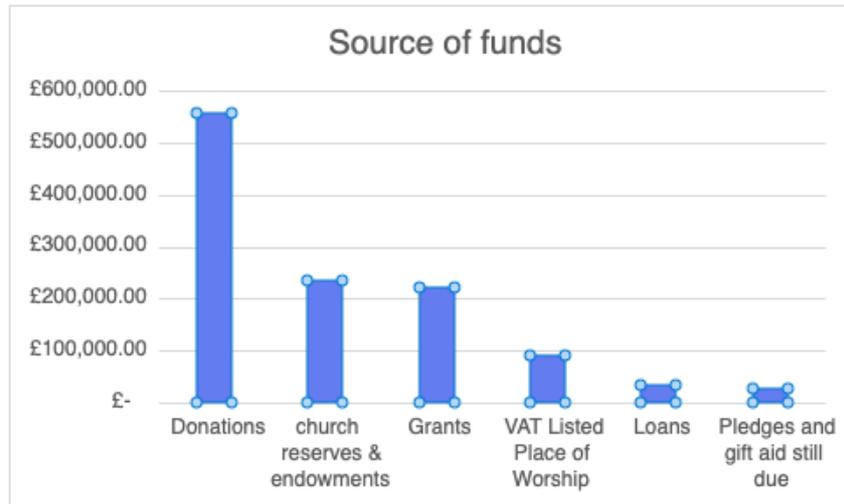
The back of the church (the West end) is now separated off by a soundproof glass door. Behind this glass door we have a reception space and a fully fitted kitchen and separate flower arranging space. By the North door we now have 3 toilets, including an accessible toilet with baby changing table and a new location for the vestry. This area, now separated from the nave, will allow activities to take place at the rear of the church without impacting the main body of the church.

An upper gallery has been installed over the kitchen area, and this has 2 meeting rooms available for use, or hire by the local community. There is also a new West room upstairs that provides a safe place for bellringers using the tower. The upper gallery is reached by staircases each end of the West wall of the church. A small lift has also been installed so that anyone who cannot use the stairs will still have access to the upper gallery.

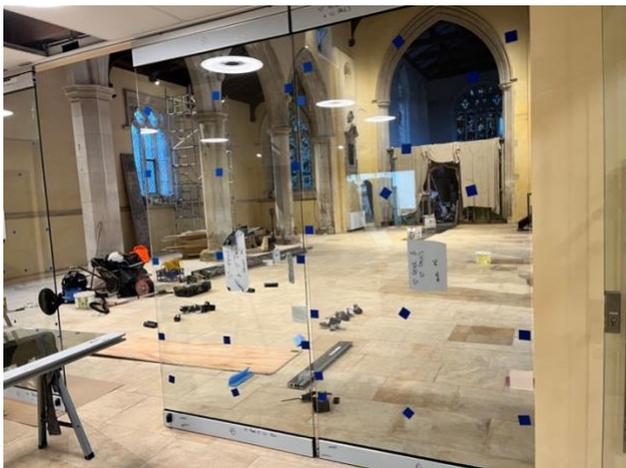
Other work carried out included installing two new fit-for-purpose boilers, upgrading the AV system, and all the electrical work and lighting required for the new spaces but in keeping with a church of this age and character. Painting and lime wash has all been refreshed. Some of the Victorian and Medieval pews have been modified where necessary and reinstated down the sides of the nave. Separate fundraising has enabled us to purchase chairs for the central space.

We are tremendously proud of what has been achieved in the 14 months since work started in mid-October 2024. We have had to work mindful of the presence of hibernating bats and within strict limitations of operating in a Grade 1 Listed Building. There have been both practical and financial challenges along the way but the goodwill from contractors, volunteers and the church community as well as vital support from grant providers and individual donations has meant a project that we have been fundraising for over 30 years has finally been completed and will be a resource for the whole village now and for generations to come.

The total cost of the re-ordering is likely to be around £1.16 million. This has been funded by donations, church reserves, grants and loans as shown:



Some photos of the interior of the church during later stages of the work are shown below.



Installation of the folding doors across the back of the church, Dec 23, 2025



Teams of volunteers scrubbed the floor in the week before Christmas



Original font moved to new location



Main (south) door with staircase to upper gallery and new glass door – including entry/exit for bats

2 February 2026



Area separated from main nave of church by glass doors and looking into kitchen



Interior of kitchen



new reception area at main door to church



One of the meeting rooms



View from the upper gallery

2 February 2026

Three toilets installed (2 shown), including baby changing in accessible toilet

