



PARISH of ST. PETER'S
HALLIWELL, BOLTON

BUILDINGS PROJECT UPDATE

Preface from our Vicar:

I hope this update on the Link Corridors Project will help you to understand the current situation. We're at an important and challenging point in this project to renew the corridors between St Peter's Church and the lounge. We now have a much clearer idea on costs and the finance that we need to raise, having received the responses to our tender. You will see that we are currently £127,900 short of our target, but if we can secure a grant for £100,000, this will reduce this figure considerably. We should know whether we have secured this grant by the middle of March. Please join us as we pray for this grant and the remaining funds that we need. You can join us for prayer on Sunday evenings during Lent at 6.30 pm.

This is a vital project for St Peter's Church, as it will not only complete necessary repairs, but also give us a building fit for mission in the 21st Century. As we look to coming out of the pandemic, we want our building to play an important part in our mission of sharing the love of Jesus with the wider community. Please join with us in prayer and giving, and be part of what God is doing among us at this time.

**"This is a vital project
for St Peter's Church"**

*Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham
Vicar*

FEBRUARY 2021

Q: What's the current situation with the link corridors?

A: The link corridors have continued to deteriorate and are in urgent need of replacement. The PCC authorised the Wardens to go out to tender for this work and this was done in conjunction with our architect from Bradshaw, Gass and Hope.

Four responses were received, ranging in price from £260,500 and £296,250. This amounts exclude VAT and architects' fees so the cheapest actual cost will be in the region of £320,000.

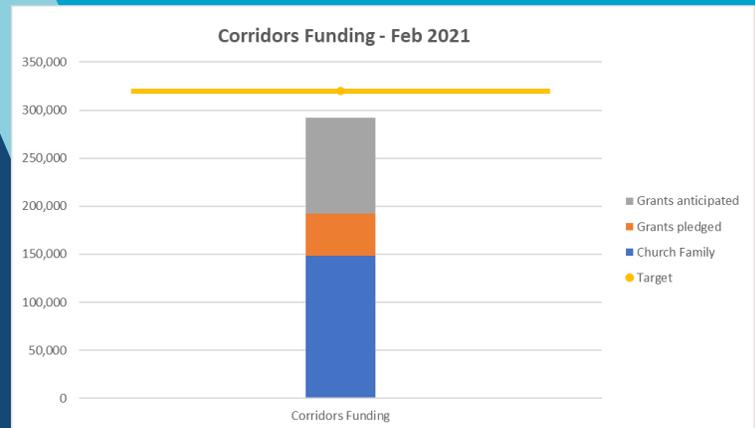
Our architects have reviewed the response with the lowest cost and, after clarifying some details, have concluded that the submitting contractor has provided a bona fide tender in accordance with the requirements of the tender documents. They therefore recommend that the PCC accepts this contractor's offer. The PCC will review this at our next meeting.

Q: Why is it so expensive?

A: There are a number of reasons for this. The first is that we wanted a high quality build that would not need to be replaced again for many years. We are enlarging the west corridor to create a new, spacious greeting area that is welcoming and accessible to all. The existing structure was never properly interfaced to the church building, which is why we have been plagued with water ingress over many years. The new design involves changes to the church fabric to properly interface the new build. Such interfacing is expensive as specialist skills are required to work on our heritage building. The Faculty process is also expensive and time-consuming, as the authorities want to ensure that everything is done correctly and that the heritage of the building is preserved.

Q: Do we have the funds to do this?

A: We're nearly there! Even though the cost is higher than anticipated, we believe it to be achievable with prayer!



Currently, we have raised a total of £192,100 against our target of £320,000, but we are very hopeful that we will be awarded a substantial grant of £100,000. The awarding body will make a decision on this in early March, so we need to pray earnestly that the decision is favourable! If we are successful, we hope to start building the new link corridors in May.



“We hope to start building new link corridors in May of this year!”

Q: What about the tower?

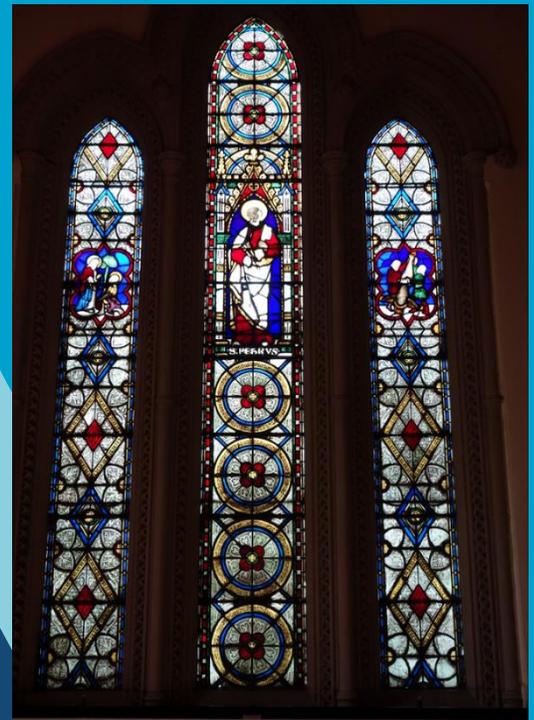
A: We are hoping to finance the tower repairs primarily from grants awarded by heritage funders. However, we have been unable to apply to the most recent funding opportunities as, because of the pandemic, they are focusing on heritage owners who are in major financial difficulty and on buildings which are on the “at risk” register. Consequently, we don’t qualify!



We, together with our fundraising partners Chell Perkins Ltd, are continuing to monitor the situation and will apply for funds once suitable opportunities become available.

Q: What about the East Window?

A: Our East Window was designed by Thomas Willement who was one of the most successful of England’s early 19th century stained glass artists. Therefore, whilst it is in very poor condition, it has considerable provenance and will need to be restored rather than replaced. We may be able to obtain grants to help with this. The PCC has commissioned a specialist survey on the East Window which has detailed the work needed. The cost for this will be in the region of £28,000. We plan to apply for a Faculty for this work later this year.



Q: What can I do to help?

A: First of all, pray! Scripture tells us that “unless the Lord builds the house, the work of the builders is wasted.”(Ps 127:1). Please pray that we would be awarded the large grant currently under consideration, and that God would supply the remaining money so that we can go ahead in May.

Secondly, if you are able, please consider giving to this project. Even if we get the grant, we still need a further £30,000 before we can proceed. Could you help close the gap? Our thanks go to all of those who have already given; we very much appreciate your generosity.

Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.

Psalm 127:1



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