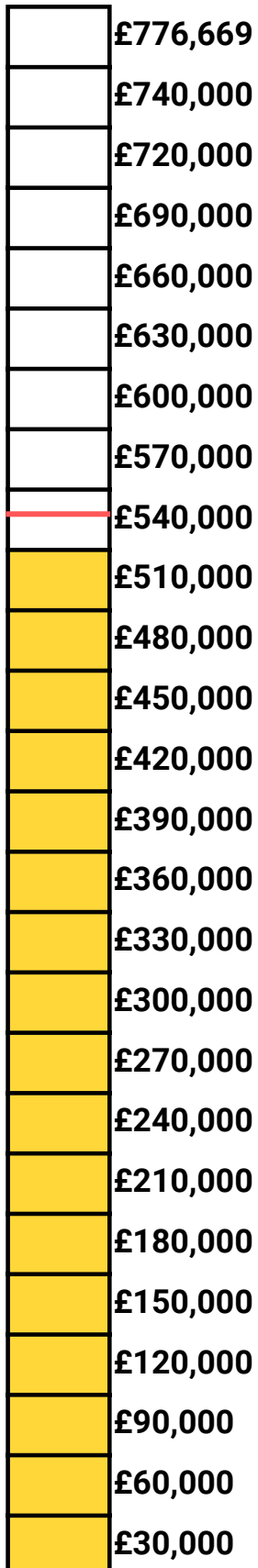


PROGRESS UPDATE MARCH 2026

Thanks be to God! Together we have raised £530,673.22

Thats 68.3% of the total



Since our last update in August we have had a lot going on. We have deliberately not been pushing the fundraising during this time in order to have a little break following the success of our 'Pave the Nave' campaign in the Summer. We however are pleased to report that a further £19676.91 has been added to the previous total. This has been achieved through the generosity of regular givers and through Dr Richard Dawidek's wise stewardship of our funds. Richard has been proactive in gaining interest from funds designated and in reaping back VAT (where possible) and gift aid.

Bell Restoration Complete

In October we completed work on the historic and unusual bell at St Matthew's (yes it does clang and yes it is made of iron!). The bell needed the bell frame restoring and the metal work in the tower needed some attention. A new rope (replete with beautiful new sally), and new wheel were added.



The Gale breakers were replaced to protect the tower from further erosion. A new access ladder was also added which complies with safety standards.

The work was undertaken T L Blyth Church Bell Specialists. It was interesting that they seem to have discovered that the wooden bell frame is probably much older than St Matthew's and probably came from another more ancient place of worship!

The total cost was £11,740.77

Faculty Granted for works to the Lady Chapel Gable

The next area of work will take place on the Lady Chapel window, which has seen water ingress over many years. The Faculty has now been granted (a Faculty is permission needed by the Diocesan Chancellor for work to proceed on a listed church) for the repair of the gable.

The work will take place in two phases. The first work will be to erect scaffolding and lift the coping stones before laying new lead under them. There will also be repointing in lime mortar as required, with a building of our age. The first phase will cost £10,998 plus VAT and should take place in the Spring.



The later internal work will cost around £4,998 + VAT. This work will take place in the Spring of 2027 once we know that the wall is completely dry.

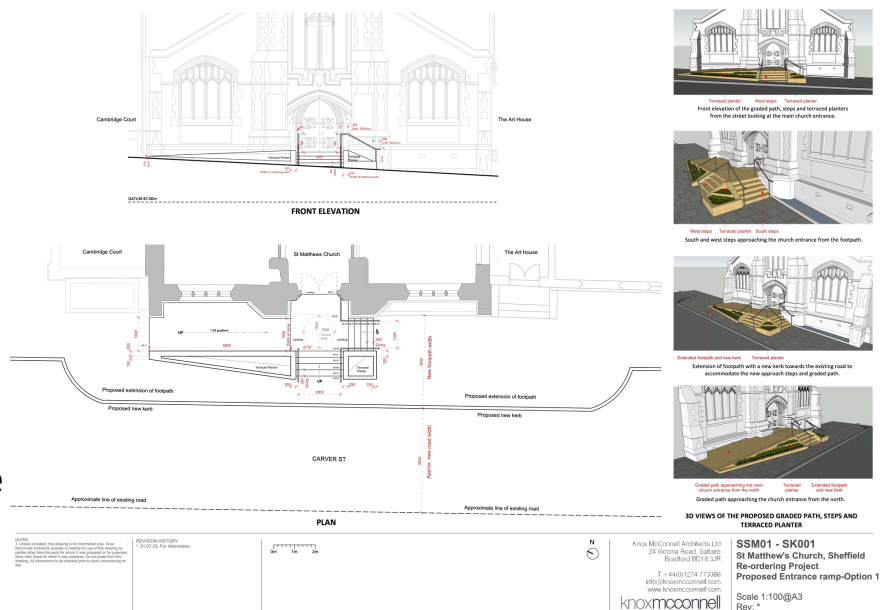
This work will be undertaken by Graham Bailey Stone Mason Restoration who were also contractors on the chancel flooring.

Next Steps

The Regenerate Committee are meeting monthly and has now identified five key areas to progress:

Ramp

We are working with the Architect and her consultant to advance the progress on securing a ramped entrance to the church (see design). This involved quite a complicated set of negotiations with the utility companies, which have services running under the pavement outside the church.

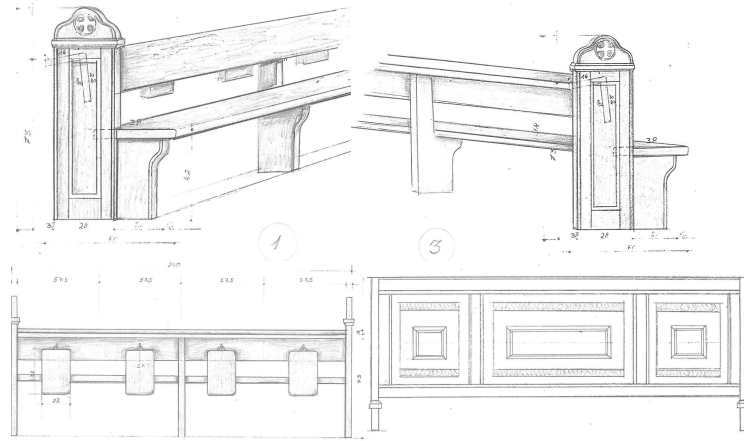


Lighting

A Meeting with the Lighting Specialist on 10th March to finalise the lighting design. Once this is done, we will proceed to obtain a faculty for the work (legal permission needed to alter a listed church).

Pews

Last year, Fr Naylor and Dr Stuart Barfield travelled to Poland and met the talented Piotr Klosek, who is a master carpenter and has beautified many churches with his skilled work. These sketches represent the development of the design he has prepared for us. Notice how the pew ends repeat the shape of the Reredos. We are working on finalising the new pew design and having a prototype made.



Audio

We are working with a member of the congregation who has a background in Audio equipment to see how we can improve our audio system, speakers, microphones and “loop” system.

Flooring

We are meeting with the architect and stonemason to make some pilot holes in the flooring to see what the solution will be for the new floor.

Fundraising

Last year, Michaela and Fr Naylor undertook a sponsored climb of Scafell Pike (England’s highest mountain) and raised £3040, which covered 19 tiles for the nave floor.

Following that success, Fr Naylor is planning a sponsored hike of Ben Nevis (Britain’s highest mountain). Details to be announced soon!

Watch this space!

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser? Email regenerate.project@carverstreet.co.uk

The Regenerate Prayer

O God, creator of all that is good, help us to build on our past as we place all our hope in You, our future. Bless our plans, we pray, as we seek to regenerate St Matthew's into a sanctuary fit for mission today. Fashion us into a living and worthy temple of your Holy Spirit, that we may always worship you in the beauty of holiness. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

Become a Regenerate Partner

Since the launch of this project we have been encouraged by the faithful band of donors who have committed to give each month. The commitment of individuals not only raises funds but also demonstrates to major grant funders that our plans have significant local and national support. It also gives the fundraising team encouragement to know that a committed group are praying for the project and making an offering to God for the sake of the future of the church building.

Monthly giving starts at **£25**. Find the BACS details below and add "Monthly" to the reference.



MAKE A DONATION

BACS St Matthews PCC | Account Number: 71794560 | Sort: 30-97-51

Online Visit stmatthewscarverstreet.co.uk/regenerate

For the events in this newsletter: linktr.ee/carverstreet or scan the QR code

St Matthew's is a registered charity 1197801

