

Thanks to our new writers

Following a call for new writers in the October issue of *Roundabout*, it is with great pleasure that all of those who came forward have had articles published in both this and the November issues.

Roundabout aims to represent everyone and to do that we need your contributions. It is great to have a diversity of writers and styles. Thank you to everyone who has already come forward and please don't be shy – if you would like to have a go at writing do get in touch roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

Editor

Hard hat tours



On the scaffolding beside the chancel roof and an area of removed tiles.

On the scaffolding beside the chancel roof and an area of removed tiles. Before we were led on a tour of the repair works. As one volunteer said, 'Although I have often been into that area of the church before, it feels like a completely different building – it is very different as a building worksite!' After viewing the chancel, some intrepid visitors climbed up to the scaffolding to view the outside works on the roof and walls – and enjoy the view in the process.

Amidst the chaos and dust of the site that is the church chancel and vestry, there are large areas of wall cleared of plaster to expose – even more

Taking a tour of a building site may not sound much like fun, but when it is a much-loved church building that is being saved for the future by means of complicated and innovative techniques... well, you would be amazed how fascinating such a tour can be!

A look behind the scenes

At the end of October, small group tours of the St Paul's Church chancel repair site were enjoyed by members of the Parochial Church Council and Heritage Project volunteers. Everyone donned their 'hard hats' as provided by the construction company



In the chancel, checking out the new steps and floor under construction for the ramp.

dramatically than before – the cracking and distortion caused by the subsidence of the structure, which was added on to the church in 1871, some 34 years after its original construction in 1837.

Technology to the rescue

The chancel floor is being extended with limecrete for a new access ramp to be built. We were told that limecrete is used instead of concrete on old building restorations, such as the church, because it is more flexible under conditions such as heat expansion, and because it is truer to the original floors that were laid in Victorian times.

When the carpet was lifted in preparation to extend the chancel floor, many original Victorian floor tiles were found that pre-dated the chancel extension. The contractors have carefully lifted around 1,500 individual floor tiles to reuse on the new, raised floor.

Although the subsidence has been caused by inadequate foundations, it is being resolved by securing the walls horizontally. The technique being used to achieve this, namely Cintec Anchor technology, has also been used on Egyptian pyramids - St Paul's is in good company! The ends of the channels drilled through the chancel walls for the 'Cintec Anchors' are currently visible both internally and externally. Stainless steel poles have



The vestry has been cracking severely with the subsidence too. The corroded metal window lintels also need replacing.



The altar as a worksite!



The worst crack in the chancel, going across the Hope window frame; during the visit the daylight could be seen through this crack! The metal wires are reinforcements in the repair.

been passed down these channels through a perforated 'sock' followed by injected material filling the tube and passing through the perforations: this sets and secures the wires in place.

The tours finished with a puzzle. We were asked to copy the glorious Victorian 28-tile repeat pattern with loose floor tiles. This was much harder than it sounds!

Get involved...

Everyone enjoyed these privileged access tours of the work site and we all feel much better-informed about the repair works. If you would like to see or hear more about the plans or how you can join our happy band of volunteers, do look at our new website, created by two generous volunteers (www.stpaulsheritage.org), or at our linked Facebook page.

As part of our ongoing programme of community heritage activities in the church, on 16th December we will be having a Children's Christmas Workshop to produce some exciting Christmas items and to thank those who have bought National Lottery tickets. Just bring along an old or current lottery ticket and, as numbers are limited, children's places will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

Sue Young, St Paul's Church heritage project

LU ARTS 

WHAT'S ON

SPEECH BUBBLE
MONDAY 4 DECEMBER, 7:30PM
COGNITOS, LOUGHBOROUGH
STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENTS FREE / £4 ON THE DOOR

**UNIVERSITY CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER, 7:30PM
COPE AUDITORIUM - £7

NT LIVE - YOUNG MARX
THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER, 7:00PM
COPE AUDITORIUM - £10

MARTIN BARTLETT
SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 7:30PM
EMMANUEL CHURCH,
LOUGHBOROUGH
£10 / £8 CONC. / £5 STUDENTS

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