



# Building4Life news 10 December 2017

B4L Project Latest News (notes from update meeting)

Maggie Nichols

**Pews:** The first job the builders had to do was to remove the pews. By this time I had already sold most of them. It was a very wet Saturday when Dave Tooby and myself, armed with plenty of hot water for coffee, met at Church to ensure pews went to the right people. I could have sold the smaller ones many times over, but managed to sell all but 2 of the large ones. 8 of the large ones had to be forfeited so the ends could be used for the small pews. The wood that was left was given to Bristol Wood Recycling who train people to use woodworking tools. There were many means of transport, one lady turned up with a mini!! Expecting to get a small pew in the boot – well that didn't work!! Another couple came and took 2 – one at a time – on the top of the car and got them both home safely. One couple had built an alcove in their kitchen to take a pew – they were so keen to have one and promised to look after all the prayers and love bestowed on the pews over time. Another person was cutting a large one in half and using them to invite her neighbours to come and pray. Everybody was so keen to have one and £2,500 was raised.

**Surprises:** As you would expect with an old building there would bound to be some "surprises" once the Contractors started in October. Well they didn't disappoint us!! There have been numerous issues with the building. Once the pews were removed and the wooden plinth removed, that's when the 'fun' started.

**The Pipe:** Firstly they found quite a large pipe running the length of the Nave which appeared to have been used when a coal boiler was in existence for heating the Church – underfloor heating!! Anyway once it was established it didn't connect to anything they removed it but were able to use the trench, by slightly deepening it, for all the pipework, electric cables and AV cables, so hopefully that might have saved us a bit of money.

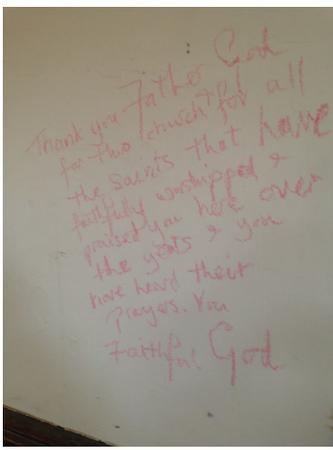
**The balcony columns:** once the paving slabs were removed they could see that the columns holding up the balcony weren't resting on much – so concrete slabs have had to be built under the columns to prevent the balcony moving.

**The Creche room:** once the crèche room was stripped and they removed the carpet it was obvious that the floor was wet and once the floorboards were removed they found pools of water. No damp course. In the same area the walls of the CAP office, prayer room etc. were all structural walls and so needed heavy duty beams to take the weight of the roof.

**The Final bit of news:** I think the final thing – after I had been up at Church and spent time with Rory, of Hart Construction, I got a call on my mobile to ask if I could go back to Church they had something I needed to see. Burial vaults, that was a surprise! Thankfully none had remains in and after consulting with Janet Saxon, Secretary of DAC, we were given permission to carry on the work.

We are very grateful to the Project Manager, Architects and the Contractors for overseeing a very complex set of challenges. From that brief outline you can see that we have had to spend extra money to put all these items right – but at least when we go back into Church next year – we will have a dry, sound and warm building.





Dave Green: "There has been an amazing response from members of CCD with income from giving & pledged giving, an interest free loan, a legacy & the sales of assets so we have had ~£1.1m in income. But there has been a disappointing response from grant applications: we have received ~£20,000 for the flat roof, £50,000 from the Bristol Archdeaconry Trust, and there are 2 more grants where we are awaiting a response. The original tender figure was just over £1.3m and our available balance: ~£1.1m so our shortfall is ~£225k plus VAT.

The Building4Life team have considered how we can phase the work and have drawn up a range of reductions to the initial scheme on the basis of excluding items that can be added back into the build if further finances are given or received in grants e.g. External paths, balcony works, repairs to leaded windows, Grace Room. There have also been some reductions in scope, e.g. different floor coverings. The PCC have approved these reductions, and now that we have all the necessary approvals, a final building contract is being drawn up to be signed early in the New Year.

If there are further donations or grants forthcoming we will be able to add back in various parts of the project. There is Funding available at [the Co-op](#) if you go online and vote for the Building4Life project. Also "[EasyFundraising](#)" has been set up, so anyone shopping online can "earn" a % of your spend for the B4L fund. Details of these are on the Church website. If anyone is able to be part of a small fundraising team in the new year, please contact Maggie on the buidling4 life email address ." [building4life@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:building4life@christchurchdownend.com)

