

Roof Project –March 2026

The planning application for the roof will be decided later this month. I hope it is just a matter of formality and will be granted giving us planning permission for 3 more years. Thanks to all those who put in messages supporting the application which is difficult when it is a system set up for people to complain about a planning application!

Many of you will have become aware of significant amounts of water coming in this winter so we felt we had to try to get things moving this year as we worry about the further damage another winter will cause to the roof structure. The sale of bungalow number 1 is key to our progress, although we continue to get viewings so far we have not been able to get somebody sufficiently interested to put in an offer to buy it. But is the bungalow's sale our only option?

In 2024 we asked three companies to give us their indication of the cost for this project. I asked our architects (MEB) to do a comparison of the replies. One company's managing director decided to come and see the building and I met him with our treasurer, we both liked his approach. His company (BMR) also came in with the lowest quote. Since then BMR has been asking MEB, on several occasions, how we were doing in terms of raising the money to cover the costs. They put a proposal to us that they would have first call on the money once the bungalow was sold to cover our shortfall but unfortunately due to the complexity of our situation the advice from the solicitors was not to take up this offer. So we are looking elsewhere for a loan within the church. The BMR suggested that we had a Pre-construction Survey done to get a current costing for the project. This would look at the state of the roof as it has been 7 years since it has been looked at. We suspect it has suffered with the adverse weather and it is sensible to get an up-to-date and more accurate costing for the project.

So during March you may notice some scaffolding around parts of the building and people taking parts of the roof apart. They will need to construct some protection over the organ so it does not get damaged as a section of the roof above the organ will need to be removed. This is the section of roof that will eventually have the solar panel on so it will need to be strengthened to make sure it is strong enough to take the additional weight.

Once we get the results of this survey and our request for a loan I will let you all know via this reporting method. I say again there is no pot of gold to sort out this problem we have to do it with our own efforts. But may, we involved with this project, take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity so far and your continued generosity and support going forward.