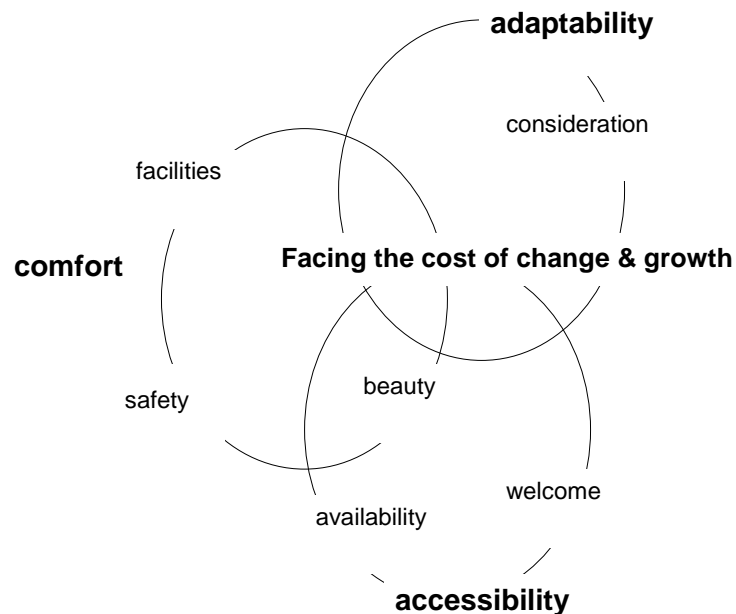


St. Mary's Church, Chipping Norton

4 years on...
...where we are
now....

14.11.10



Keeping you up to date....

Bulletin 6

Since the last Bulletin in June 2010:

The brochure explaining and illustrating the Living Stones project has been posted to every house in the town accompanied by a letter and a response form. There are spare copies in the church for anyone who missed out; please take them. How about sending them to family and friends with your Christmas letters? Envelopes are available too.

Alfred Groves and Sons were awarded the contract and have been busy on the project since the beginning of September. The contract will continue (with an extended break for most of December) well into the New Year.

Dr Andrew Storer returned to continue dismantling the old pipe organ. We are enormously grateful to him and to the many kind folk who have ferried Andrew from and to Stony Stratford at the beginning and end of the week. John Marshall would be very pleased to receive offers from anyone who has *not* done this trip yet to avoid overburdening those who have.

A large area at the back of the church has been cleared to receive the historic ledger slabs which Trevor Dean, stonemason, has lifted and brought inside to dry out in readiness for repair. They will eventually be laid into the new floor on the approach to the vicar's vestry.

The future recipient of the organ pipes has been unable to take them at present and it has been necessary to requisition the whole Over Norton Aisle - an unforeseen inconvenience.

Our apologies, especially to the town, for the shortage of seating for the Remembrance Service

Some of the pipes will be taken away next week, but the congestion will continue as scaffolding is erected to take out extremely heavy organ components in the next fortnight.

In addition, the removal of the ledger slabs has facilitated the extensive trenching required to make connection to the main sewer. This is likely to mean some of the church paths being closed to vehicles for a time, and will certainly create mud!

Please take great care while works are proceeding, observe all cautionary instructions, and take every opportunity to explain the situation to any who are concerned by the temporary state of the church and churchyard.

Work in the tower is nearing completion and we can expect our new toilets to be in use within two weeks. The contractors will then move into the clergy vestry area for the next stage of the work.

The Financial situation:

Contract costs for toilets & vestry estimated at £100,000

Contract costs for new stone floor estimated at £ 20,000

Total = £120,000

Funds in hand:

£80,000 deposit account

£18,467 response from church gift day (after gift aid)

£10,488 response from the community (after gift aid)

Total: £ 108,955

Already paid £11,700

Total = £120,655

We are waiting for the results of grant applications which would enable us to make a start on conserving the monuments included in our Phase 2 programme. We still need to raise approximately £30,000 to conserve the Croft tomb alone, so we still have a way to go!