



St Mark's Gillingham – Accessible Toilet Project



**Official Opening by the Archdeacon of Rochester
The Venerable Andrew Wooding Jones
Sunday 23 September 2018**



Background

When St Mark's was built in 1866 there was only one toilet, which was accessible from outside of the building and intended for use by the clergy, not the congregation.

In 1984 the church was refurbished and two new toilets were built, which were in use for the past 34 years.

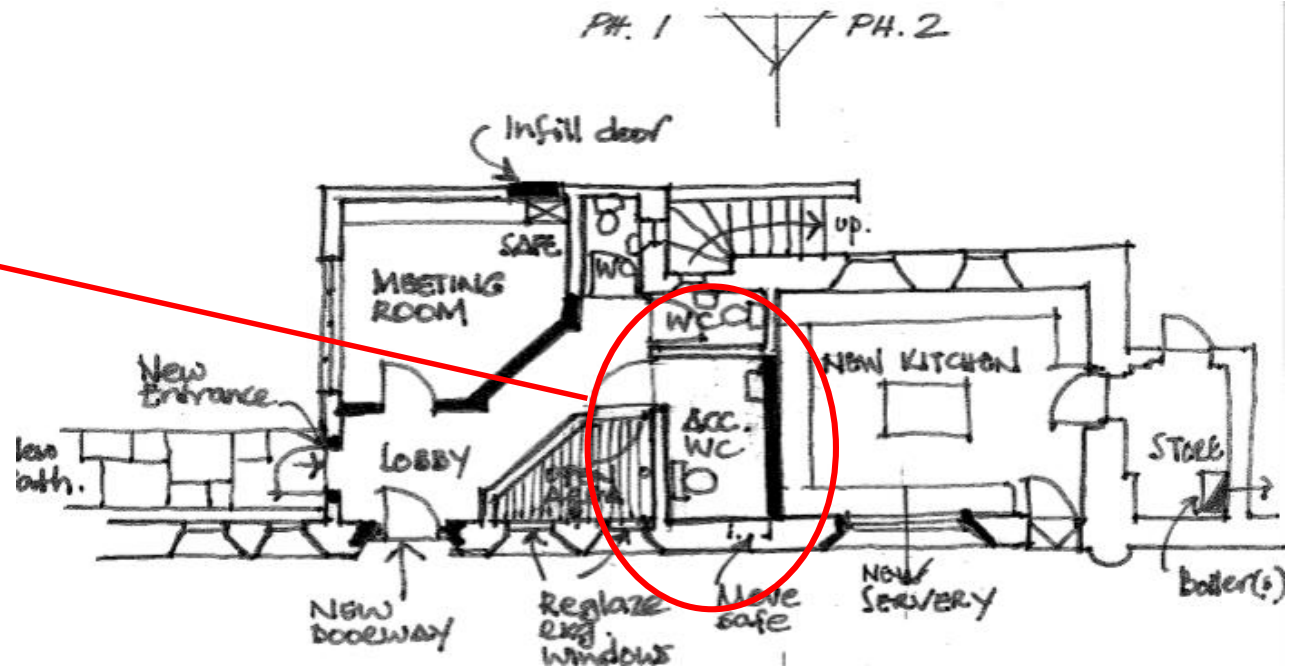




Original sketch drawing

Around 2006, the PCC discussed the possibility of installing a temporary disabled toilet in the choir vestry, which did not come to fruition.

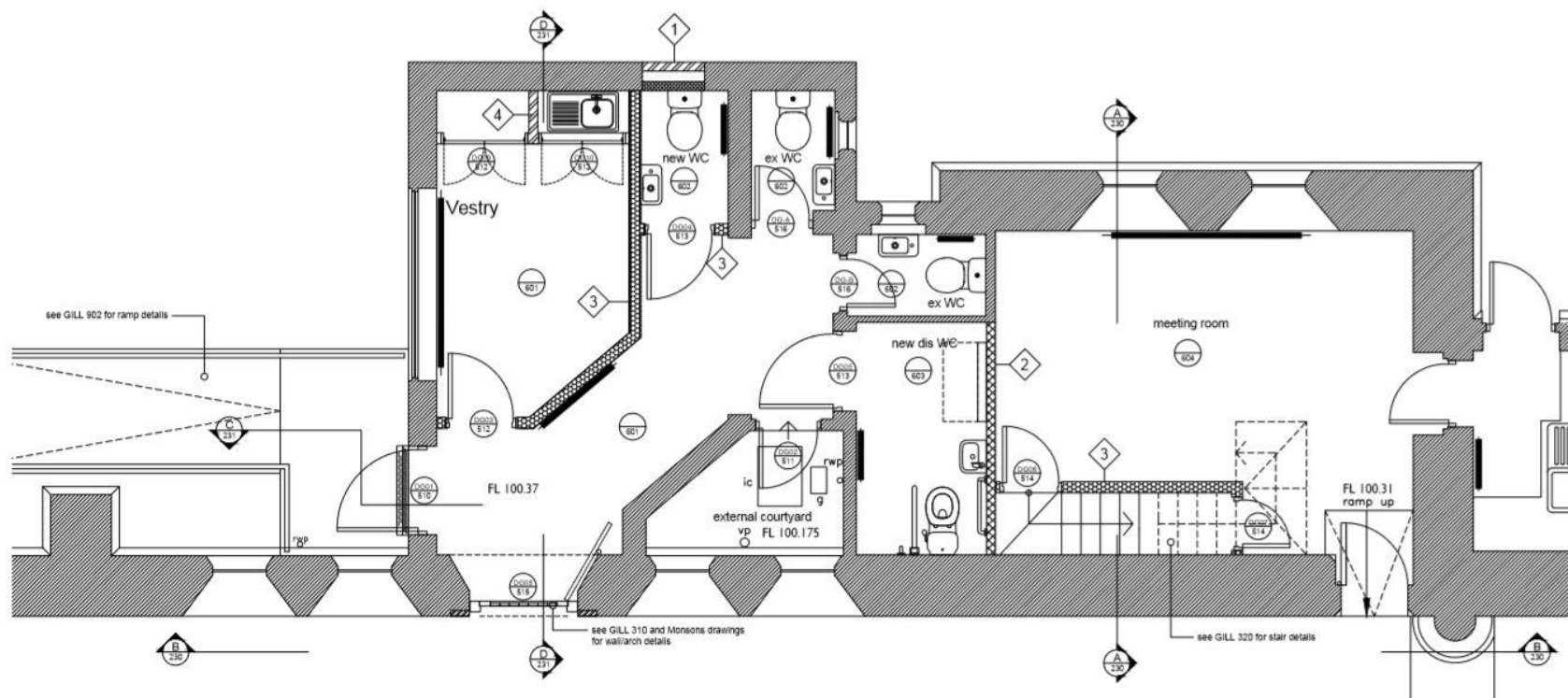
In 2010 a sketch plan was drawn up for a permanent accessible toilet. This was the start of what we now have today.





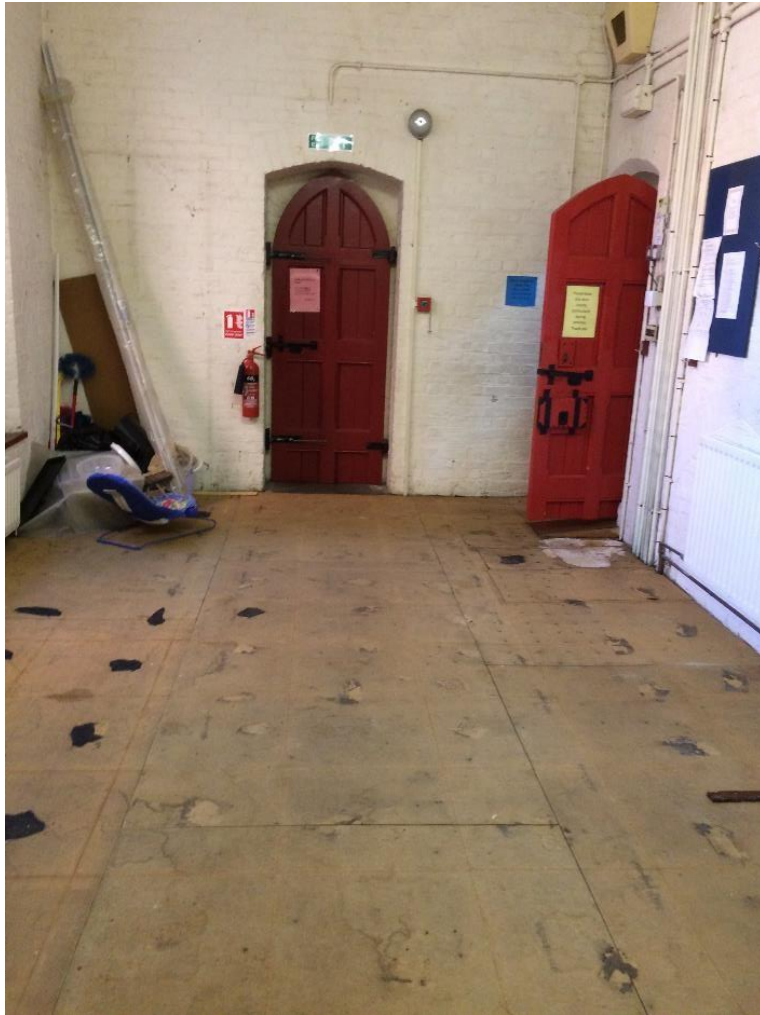
Final Design

Seven years later, the final design was approved to provide an accessible toilet, three W/C's, a meeting room, vestry, mezzanine floor storage facility and new emergency exit.





Ready for work to start – 13 May 2018



Choir Vestry



Vicar's Vestry



Main contractor work starts – 14 May 2018



First to go is the safe
Now relocated to
the Old Vicarage



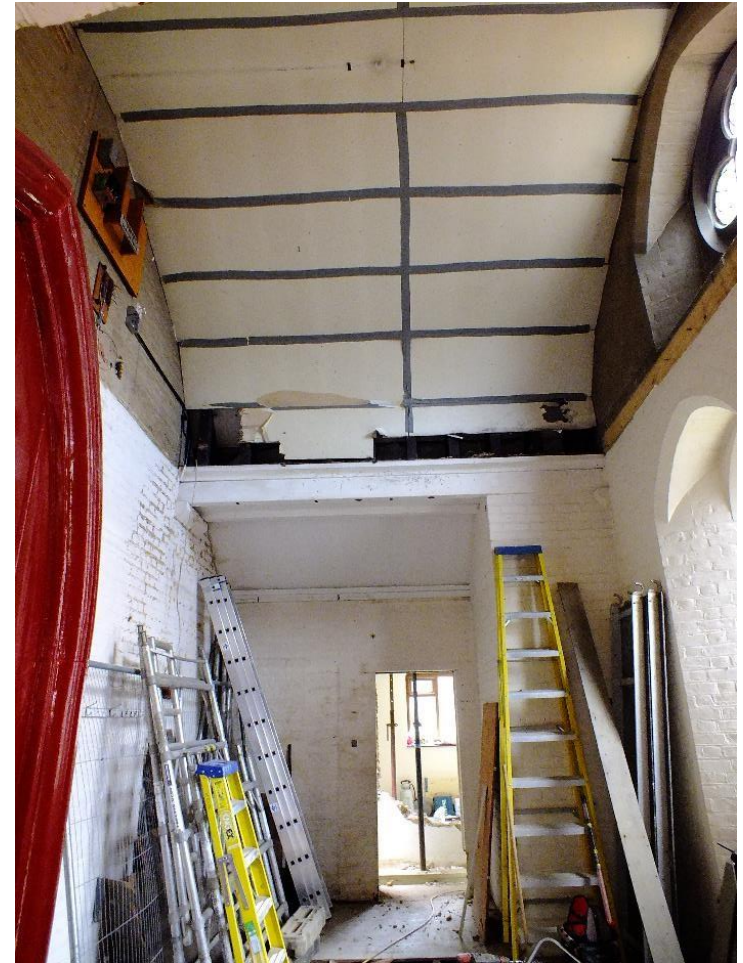
The original back door is
opened again after
many years and old
boiler removed from the
kitchen



Main contractor work



Vestry cupboards are gone – a breakthrough to the church is needed



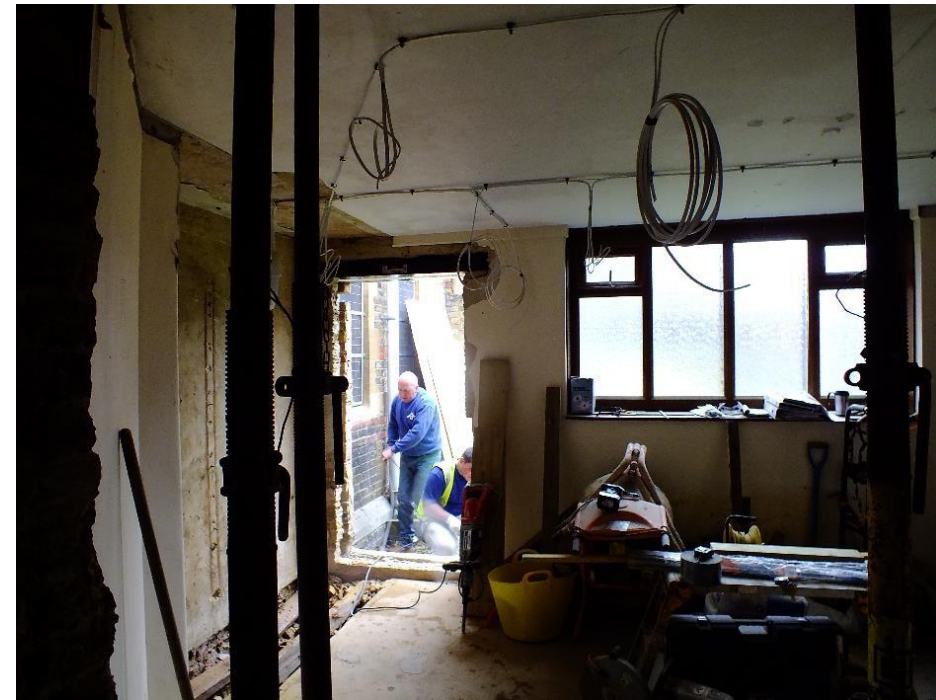
The loft has been taken down in readiness for the new mezzanine floor



Main contractor work



The vestry wall comes down and steel lintel is put in place.



A new way out – the new emergency exit is formed.



Main contractor work



Cutting through the 700mm thick wall for the new doorway.



Still a long way to go
To breakthrough



Main contractor work



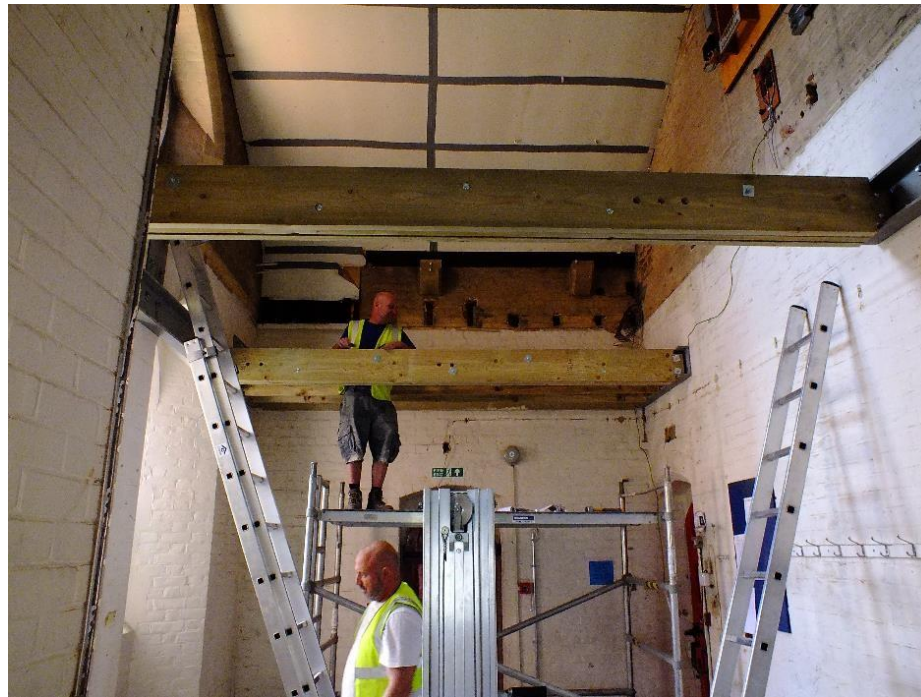
Checking the door shape is correct.



Breakthrough at last



Main contractor work



Steels and joists for the mezzanine floor are installed



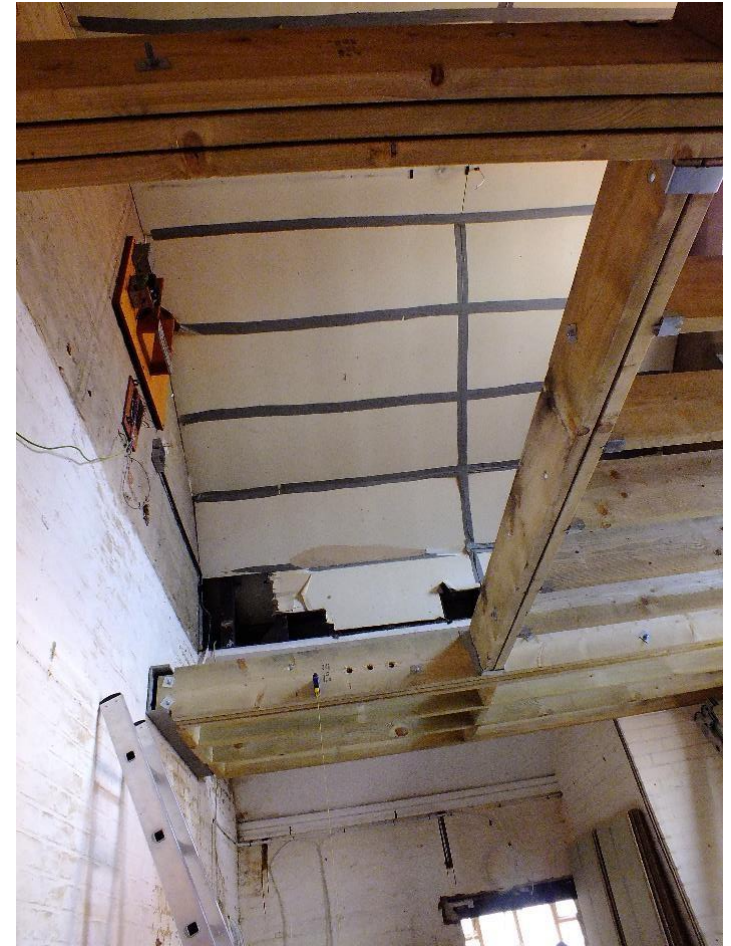
Strong enough to support 7 tonnes of weight, or almost the entire congregation



Main contractor work



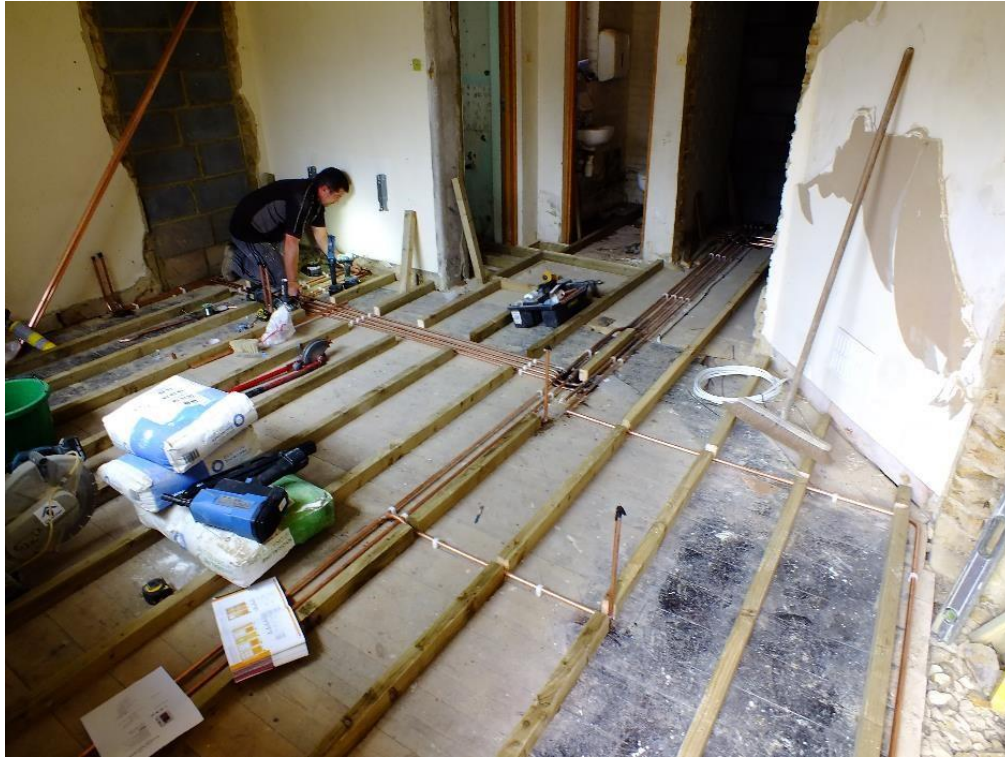
The mezzanine floor goes in



With space left for the staircase



Main contractor work starts



A new floor is laid



And lots of wiring



Main contractor work



The plumbing is underway



And new boiler installed



Main contractor work



The mezzanine floor is laid



And partitioning commences



Main contractor work starts



Plaster boarding of walls and ceilings



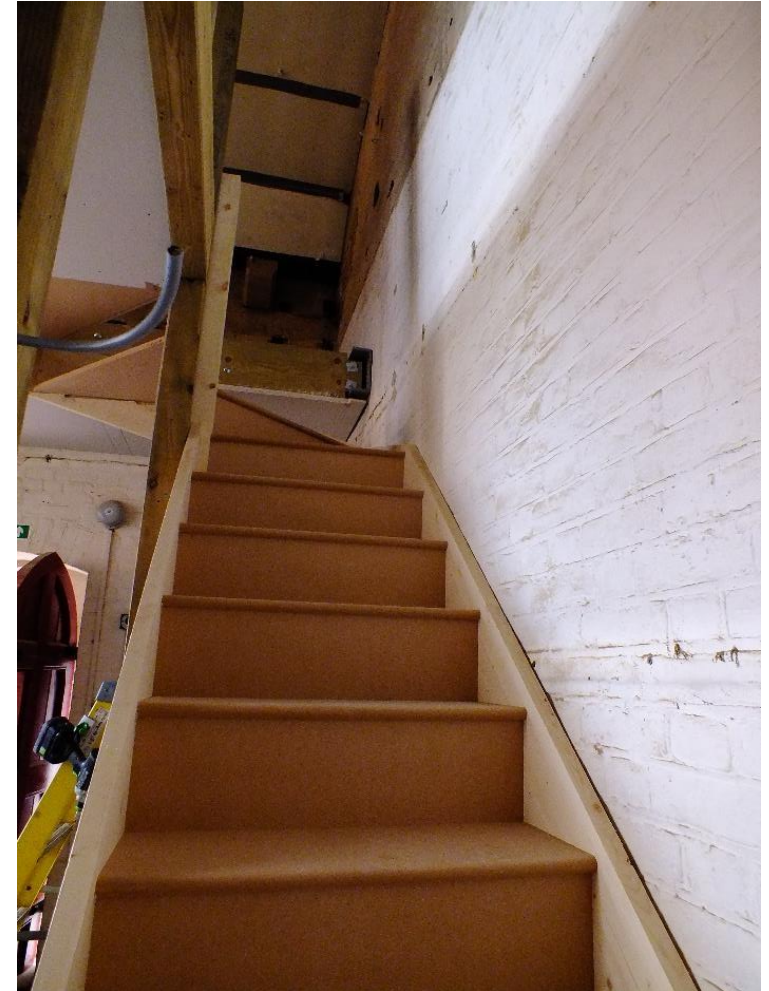
Followed by plastering



Main contractor work



The stairs arrive



And are fitted



Main contractor work



The oak door being installed



The arch brickwork completed



Emergency Exit Ramp



Emergency exit ramp
under construction



And completed



Completion 27 July 2018 (11 weeks)





Final Costs

Contractor	Work carried out	Cost
Charlier	Main Contractor	£93,431
HJA	Vestry roof insulation	£3,140
Alltype	Entrance and exit ramps	£4,305
JBKS	Architect's fees	£15,695
JCT contract		£70
Total cost		£116,641

Praise God that all costs have been fully met through the generous giving of St Mark's congregation