

## The Building project

Expanding the current building has long been talked and prayed about. Throughout 2016 an hour on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings were set aside to seek God on the matter. Initial plans were drawn up and a [vision document](#) was presented to the church meeting in September 2016.



To enable us to apply for grants, and to ensure what was envisioned would also benefit the local community we undertook a community survey and interviewed over 100 local residents.

A special Church Meeting in January 2017 overwhelmingly voted for the project to go ahead.

So began the long task of applying to grant making bodies as well as engaging in our own fundraising activities. We

held quizzes and gift days. We set up “a sell your stuff on Ebay” service. We launched a cook book and organised a “Buy a brick scheme” where we were able to share our vision with our nearest 1000 neighbours. Telford and Wrekin created a Legacy fund for projects to mark 50 years of the existence of Telford. We were awarded £20,000 which gave a real boost to our fundraising activity.

Two years of hard work, led by the Minister and Jean Robinson, began to pay off as various organisations captured some of the vision of what we were trying to do. By the end of February 2020 we had the funds in place and 9<sup>th</sup> March a huge excavator arrived on site to begin digging the foundations.



The progress was swift until on the Thursday an unexpected water main was hit sending a



spectacular fountain 50 feet into the air. Severn Trent made a swift repair, but the main needed to be moved. No-one wanted to take responsibility for moving the pipe (and second one was also uncovered). But in any event the work... and indeed the world came to a grinding halt on 19<sup>th</sup> March as the coronavirus lockdown was announced.

For months nothing happened.

Severn Trent wanted to charge us many thousands of pounds to move the pipes. The church was called to prayer and we encircled the building asking for God's help in breaking through this stalemate.

On a further look at the issue it was discovered that one of



the pipes was redundant and could be capped, and that the second pipe could be moved at a considerable, but much reduced fee.

The pipe was diverted and building recommenced in November.



By Christmas the foundations were in place and the supporting walls were going up.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2021 the Minister took the trowel which had laid the foundation of the original church building in 1860 and used it to lay a brick at the base of the wall.



Through January an excellent team of brickies set about raising the walls as the ice and snow allowed!

If you want to give a financial contribution towards the project you can give [here](#)