

Statement of needs

St Peter & St Paul Church, Cranfield

12 – May -2024

Updated: 15 – Apr – 2025

Section A. General Information

Cranfield Parish primarily is made up of village of Cranfield, a sizable village in Bedfordshire with a population ranging between 5,000 and 6,000. Currently, there are 84 individuals on the electoral roll. Services at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church in Cranfield are held every Sunday at 10:30 AM, with an average attendance of 60-70 adults and about 15 children. Midweek services take place at 10:00 AM on alternate Wednesday mornings, attracting around 10-15 adults. While a large portion of the congregation is retired, there are also many young families with children under 5 and older. The church offers a crèche for pre-school children and a Sunday school for school-aged children.

The church remains open during daylight hours and features a meeting room, created through recent reordering, for community use. Additionally, the local area includes a village hall and a community centre, both of which are available for church events.

Section B. The needs

The church houses a partially enclosed bell-ringing chamber, where the bells are rung every Sunday before the worship service. Due to its partial enclosure, there is a warm air draught out of the church building increasing the energy demand of heating the church building. Also, there is noise interference when the bells are being rung on Sunday mornings

The following is the current state of the arch way



This area is now open and allows warm air draught out of church. On Sunday mornings, it is challenging to hear the bells over the church band's practice.

In the proposed work these gates will be replaced.

Section C. The proposal

New oak doors will be installed in the archway of the ringing chamber, replacing the existing half gates. This will involve fitting a new door frame. Previously, there was a structure across the archway, and the existing fixing holes and marks on the stonework will be utilized and covered by the new door frame.

The oak doors offer several benefits:

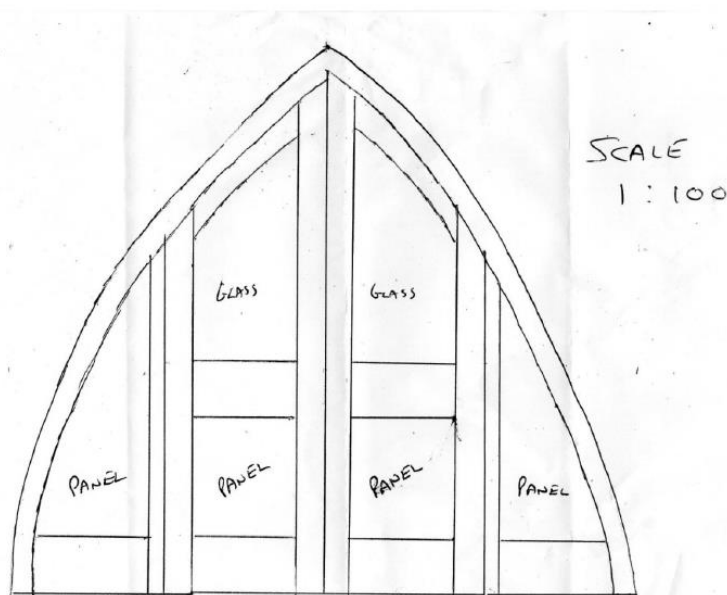
1. **Improved Insulation:** The tower creates an updraft that draws warm air from the balcony. The new doors will help retain heat within the church, reducing heating costs and environmental impact.
2. **Noise Reduction:** On Sunday mornings, it is challenging to hear the bells over the church band's practice. The new doors will help minimize this noise interference.
3. **Health & Safety:** The partially enclosed bell chamber poses a potential danger, especially with many children now attending church. The new doors will enhance safety.
4. **Aesthetics:** The new oak doors will be more visually appealing than the current barriers, which does not match the rest of the church's interior.

Highlighting the Health & Safety aspect:

First and foremost, the new ringing chamber doors are intended to address health and safety concerns. Currently, our bell ropes are easily accessible to the congregation, children, and members of the public when the church is open and the door under the balcony is unlocked. The existing gates to the ringing chamber are only waist-high and can be climbed over even when locked. Installing full doors will not only improve safety but also help reduce heating costs and control noise.

The Cranfield bells are very heavy, with the largest weighing 18 cwt. The momentum generated by pulling the ropes and swinging the bells without supervision could cause someone to fall and sustain significant injuries. On special occasions, such as weddings, the bells are raised and left up temporarily. Raised bells are particularly dangerous if pulled, as they could pull someone off their feet, causing rope burns and arm or shoulder injuries. The ringing chamber's low ceiling makes it difficult to raise the ropes high enough to be out of reach, unlike in other churches.

A drawing of the proposed work is shown below



The work is to be carried out by **Kempston traditional joinery**:

The following are the costs

Supply only £5856

Materials and labour £980

Total = £6836 Inc. vat.

We have secured funding from the charity ' Friends of Cranfield Parish Church' and also applied for funding from other charities. Currently we have enough funding to carry out the works.