

We did the outside...



Now it is time to go inside!

A little recap of the story so far...

From 2020 to 2023 plans were made, shaped and agreed for the newly refurbished and extended Parish Centre, and the Narthex of the Church. The site was prepared in 2022-2023, and the building work was fully completed by early 2024.

The whole project, including demolitions, professional fees, and all the building works, cost £2.298 million. £1 million came from the sale of the land next to the church. £556,000 came from grant funding and VAT reclaim (permitted on the part of the project directly affecting the church).

From 2020 until now we have paid off about £380,000 through donations and parish fundraising, with £360,000 left to pay.

Bishop Alan and the Diocesan Trustees have generously agreed that we can pay off this debt at a sum of £40,000/year for the next nine years, at a 1.5% interest rate. This is such a help, as it gives space for the interior church works proposed here. We can cover the repayments through hall surplus (currently about £25,000/year) and Gift Aid (currently about £17,000 per year).

The benefits of what we have done...

The parish is thriving and growing; **a typical weekend now sees close to 700 people at Mass**, and at **Easter there was perhaps a new record of between 1400 - 1500 attending Mass, including the hall overflow fully occupied for two of the Easter Sunday morning Masses.** There is an Alpha programme which has now run twice, for those interested in deepening faith, plus a whole range of **events and activities for the Parish 170th Anniversary Year.** Visitors regularly comment on the joy, welcome, prayerfulness and vibrancy of the parish. There is much to thank God for, every week and every day.

The parish centre is in use from 7.30am - 9.00pm most weekdays; when it is used by the homeless each week in winter, there is a period of 24 hours constant use! Alongside commercial hires, there is a huge range of community and charity use, as well as sustaining parish Sacramental, social and pastoral programmes. So many hall users and visitors comment on the quality and ease of use of the facilities; again, we are very blessed.

But the inside of the church has had no attention for 30 years... so it is time to dive into that. *Please turn the page...*




Redecoration & Refurbishment of the Church Interior

Jan - March 2027

The last time the church was redecorated was just before the Millennium, in 1998! Nearly 30 years later, after some incidents of damp and much wear and tear, there are key elements that need redecoration, repair and refurbishment. Below are the "headline" costs, and the plans to help fund the refurbishment.

To achieve this will involve closing the church completely from January to March 2027; with a very early Easter (March 28th 2027) the hope is that we will be in the church for the Easter celebrations.

The main elements of the work, and the likely costs (all including VAT), are:

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------|
|  | Replastering the Sections of the Church Previously Affected by Damp
<i>Using a membrane to prevent future damp problems</i> | £16,800 |
|  | Repainting the Church, Lady Chapel and Gallery
<i>Using specialist breathable paint</i> | £19,200 |
|  | Renovating the Organ
<i>Including a thorough clean of the pipes</i> | £17,000 |
|  | Renovating the Pews
<i>Cleaning and re-varnishing every pew in the church</i> | £14,000 |
|  | New Lighting
<i>Warm LED lighting, highlighting key features of the church (advised by a company that lights heritage buildings)</i> | £19,885 |
|  | Renovating the Kneelers
<i>Repairing and reupholstering every kneeler</i> | £10,752 |
|  | Flooring
<i>Sanding and revarnishing the wooden flooring</i> | £3,000 |

Estimated Total Costs **£100,637**

(we should also allow at least 5% rise on all costs as the project is some months away)

How can we fund this work?

1. We will investigate grants



The VAT reclaim scheme has ended but there is a fresh **Government heritage preservation scheme** that may help us, as well as the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other grant givers.

2. Parish funds



Thanks to great generosity from parishioners, including donations to the **Romford Future account**, we do make a small surplus even after the £40,000 annual repayment to the Diocese, and we will use this to fund the work in 2027.

3. Donations from parishioners



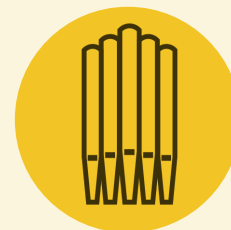
Could you fund a part of this work?

Have a look at the funding sheet with this leaflet – could you pay for an organ pipe to be cleaned out? A pew to be varnished? A kneeler to be reupholstered? Could you make a one-off large donation? Could you leave money to the parish in your Will?

Tackling the Costs of the Refurbishment



ORGAN



Total cost £17,000.
There are 23 organ pipes
so it is £740 per pipe.



KNEELERS

Total cost £10,752.
There are 69 kneelers
so it is £156 per kneeler.



PEWS



Total cost £14,000.
There are 39 pews
so it is £359 per pew.

Or perhaps you can make a large one-off donation to help fix the plaster and paint? Or improving the lighting? Or to help towards sanding the floor?

All the donation info is over the page.



Thank you for anything that you can give.

Donating to the Interior Refurbishment



If you are already making a standing order donation into the Romford Future account, *thank you*. This is a vital part of the over £380,000 raised towards paying off the building project so far.

If you can increase your donation, thank you.

If you can continue it for a few more years that is obviously a great help.

We will only ever use Romford Future money for church improvements and maintenance.

To begin a standing order, or to make a one-off donation please use these bank details:

Account name:

Catholic Church Romford

St Edward – Romford Future

(for online banking you can simply type in **Romford Future**)

Sort Code: **40-13-22**

Account Number: **92108860**

Are you a Taxpayer?

If you make a donation online and are a parish Gift Aider, please let us know so that we can link the information and claim an extra 25% at no cost to you.

If you are a tax payer (including a pensioner who pays tax) and are not yet a Gift Aider, please do sign up for Gift Aid – it is one simple form; just ask at the parish office or at the end of Mass.



If you would like to make a donation with **cash**, or a **cheque (payable to "Romford Future")** then just put it in an envelope marked Romford Future and hand in with the offertory, drop it through the letterbox, or give it to Fr Dominic at the end of Mass. *Again, if you are a Gift Aider please indicate this, or if you would like to Gift Aid and need a form, just let us know.*

Thank you for anything that you can give – whether it is £5, £25, £50, £100, £156, £359, £740 or something even larger, every pound will be well spent.



Let's Make the Inside Look as Good as the Outside!