

Reordering Case Study: Princes Risborough St Mary

In 2008, St Mary's at Princes Risborough built the Chapter House, a contemporary octagonal extension to the north side of the church, to house meeting rooms for community and private use, the parish office and modern facilities. Beyond this, the PCC wished to enhance the ways in which the church reaches out the wider community, by being open and welcoming, and having the facilities to support its users' needs, from toddler groups to providing day-care for the elderly of the area. It was with these priorities in mind that the church embarked on a major internal reordering, involving:

- The removal of the pews and replacement with chairs to enable the floor to be cleared easily for events/ flexible worship
- The replacement of the floor with a Portland stone floor and installation of under-floor heating below this for increased comfort
- The creation of a bespoke servery in the north side of the west end
- Extension of the dais from the chancel westwards into the nave
- Installation of an improved low energy, long life lighting system, to complement the new interior
- Installation of a new AV system, including projector and flat screen TVs
- Commissioning of bespoke chancel furniture
- Repairs to dilapidated stonework and redecoration throughout
- Relocation of the font
- Creation of improved storage facilities in the tower
- New, welcoming glass doors and signage

The pictures below chart the progress of the reordering.



Above: St Mary's before the reordering



Above: the excavation of the nave



Above: under-floor heating being installed



Above: Laying the paving slabs in the nave



Above: the redecorated interior



Above: The new servery with roller-shutter



Above: Construction of the dais underway



Above: the finished dais



Above: new chancel furniture



Above: the finished project



Above: getting ready



Above: Alpha supper being enjoyed by the congregation