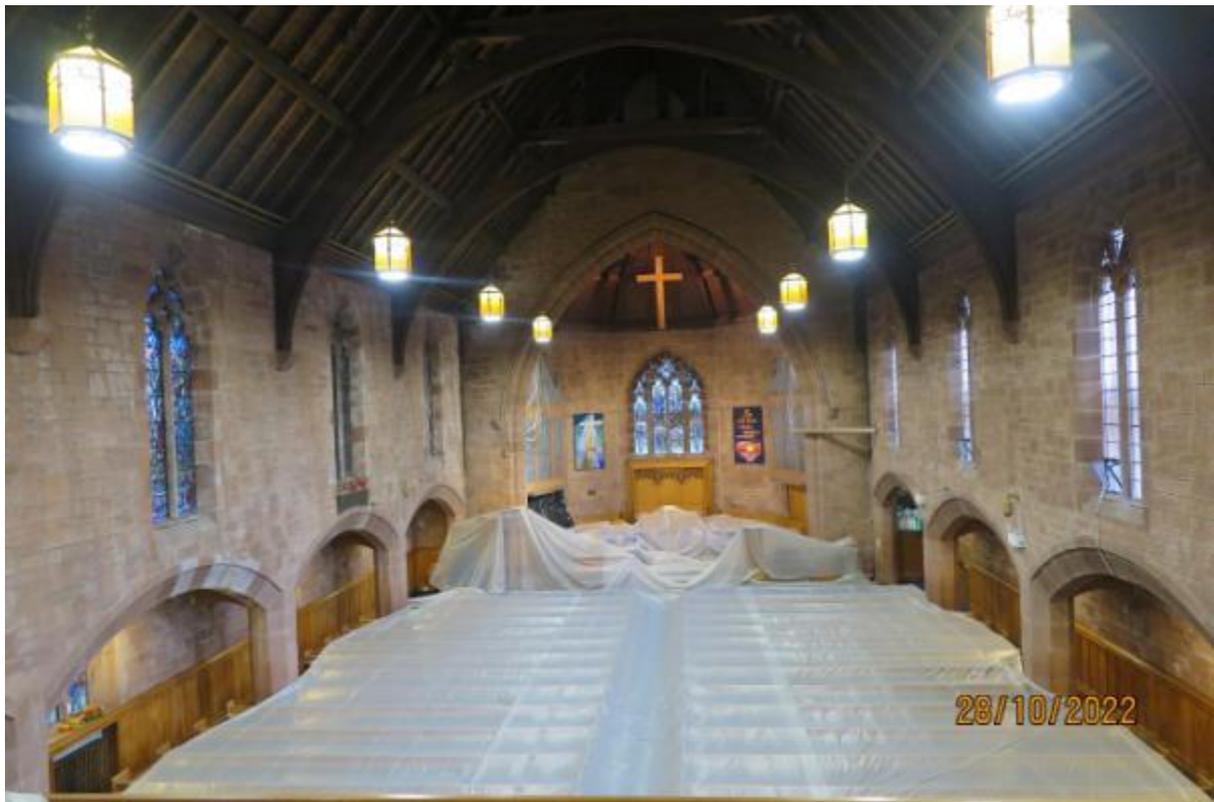


## ROOF PROJECT UPDATE



The First Step was to arrange protection for our precious pipe organ. Raphael, our expert from Harrison and Harrison Organ Builders, climbed in behind the pipes themselves to secure the polythene.

We are liaising with our contractors to protect the sanctuary while the roof works are ongoing.



We are varying the extent of the cover depending on the area of the roof where the men are working.

Externally scaffold took a while because of complexity and height.



The two crosses at the apex of the roof are to be re-bedded while the scaffold is up.



The white monoflex covering intended to give protection to the stonemasons did not do well in the gales and is not being replaced.

Here is the programme of work which the contractors have tabulated and the programme completed so far has covered:-

1. Taking possession of the site.
2. Taking a core of the stonework to establish the precise type of stone used in the original construction.
3. Creating a storage and work space for their men and materials
4. Scaffold.
5. Asbestos Survey.
6. Strip the north and south faces of the roof.
7. Expose rafter ends.
8. Check for rot.

The good news is that while wet rot is apparent at the east and west copestones and at the lead skews, the north face of our roof is sound. Our advisers believe that the south face of the roof where there has been persistent water ingress over many years will be more susceptible to rot but, in order to maintain the building as water tight as possible, work on the south face will not commence until we have reinstated the north face with a completely new slate covering. As a point of interest some of the original slates have been set aside for future use in some of the small lower roof areas

The next few photos after a photo of the roof being stripped show areas where the need for repair is demonstrated by the photos which follow



**Above** stripping underway      **Below** gaps in stonework and growing vegetation



The gaps shown here and in the photo below are caused by years of rain washing the mortar out of the joints. The result is water entering the building through the gaps



Overall our fabric has a lot of lead in vital gutters and skews. The leadwork thins with age, cracks and has been subject to repair and patching. It now needs replaced



See here gaps in the cope stones and the worn lead skew



Above is the gutter along the south aisle where there has been persistent water ingress and years of running repairs. The photo on the left below shows rot and the photo on the right shows extensive rot, due to cracked lead and a faulty outlet pipe





All 4 of these shots show the careful scrutiny by our specialist rot contractor





To the left is our nearly complete new slate roof on the north face of the roof while the photo above shows the quality of the new lead skew (gutter) increased in size to take account of the increased wet weather we now seem to face in the West of Scotland



Just as this note was being prepared our specialist contractor, who identified the rot in the high level lead valley gutter on the south aisle where we have had problems of water ingress for years, was in touch to request scaffold in the sanctuary to allow him to reach and inspect the main beam outlined in red. He needs to see that the rot he found in the gutter caused by cracked lead, a birds nest, and a faulty outlet has not penetrated to affect this single main beam (the others are fine)

Subject to further investigations in the area of the south aisle we are half way through the programme of works and the contract costs are only modestly

over budget by just over £2000.

Weather remains a challenge (November was grim!) We need both dry and mild weather so a delayed completion date of May looks likely at the moment.

**31 January 2023**