

Upper Sapey Church Rescue - a Tour of the Changes

1. You entered via the restored **PORCH**, which has brand new doors, and is glazed throughout. The pew one side was previously in the church, and the old bier (coffin transporter), now used as a display table, stowed the other side was made by local craftsman John Kitchen.
2. Once inside, on your left is the relocated **FONT** with its beautifully restored wooden **FONT COVER**. Previously, the font was at the west end of the nave, adjacent to the Norman arch.
3. On the wall next to the font you can see the **TEN COMMANDMENTS BOARDS**. They were almost illegible, and part of one frame was very badly damaged. These have now been restored by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd. The version of the Ten Commandments is that used in the Book of Common Prayer.
4. Now, as you face the west end of the church you cannot help but notice the fabulous new **OLLY'S FRIENDSHIP ROOM**. This community space, with its beautiful oak screen, oak flooring, built-in cupboards, and basic kitchen facilities. This room has been designed to provide a warm and comfortable space for widespread church and community use, but especially for support of anxiety sufferers. It is fully insulated from the main church structure, all the glass is double-glazed, and warmth is provided by **UNDERFLOOR HEATING** supplied via an economical **AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP** situated outside.
5. At the rear of the Friendship Room is the **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE WC**, situated inside the bell tower.
6. A particular architectural feature enhanced by the new Friendship Room is the **NORMAN ARCH**, benefitting from uncluttered sight lines and appropriate lighting.
7. All the illumination in the church and Friendship Room is provided by modern **LOW ENERGY LED LIGHTS**, able to be controlled for a variety of uses or "moods".
8. On the north wall (opposite the entrance porch) you can see the relocated **MEMORIAL PLAQUES**, several of which were in the space now occupied by the Friendship Room.

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9. Below these plaques the nave is now filled with pews – some medieval -- displaced by the Friendship Room.
10. Beneath these pews the **RESTORED FLOORING** now provides a level base – it was sinking into the **BOILER ROOM** below, now redundant.
11. Turning to face the Altar at the east end of the church, the large **STAINED GLASS WINDOW** above the Altar has been expertly restored by Brockweir Glass, and the windows are now protected by mesh screens outside.
12. The **LIST OF INCUMBENTS** has been updated to the present day, will be and displayed in a restored oak frame on the wall on your right as you enter the church. It is currently in the new Olly's Friendship Room awaiting fixing! This list, together with several other historical printed items, were previously displayed in the very cluttered and damp porch. They will be preserved in a **HISTORICAL PORTFOLIO** in due course.
13. In the nave and chancel, several new **ELECTRIC HEATERS** have been installed – high level **RADIANTS** as well as **UNDER PEW CONVECTORS**. We can have a warm church at last!
14. Severe cracking of the chancel arch and the north/east corner was solved by extensive **HIDDEN INTERNAL TIES**. This was the most important part of the “rescue” that enables the church to continue to be used. Without it, the church would soon have been condemned as “unsafe”.
15. Outside, the wooden cladding on the **SPIRE** has been repaired, and several pieces of **NEW MASONRY** fitted around some of the windows.
16. There has been extensive **RE-POINTING** of the stone walls. The east end outside shows this work well.
17. Adjacent to the churchyard gate a new **EXTERNAL LIGHT** has been provided on an oak post.
18. The **FRENCH DRAIN** has been extended around the west (tower) end of the church, and the path there improved.
19. There have also been **EXTENSIVE MINOR WORKS** throughout the church – too many to list.

Notes prepared by John Bland, December 2016. (V4)

