

# December 2013

## 1 December

A building with no scaffolding, it looked as if we were getting there at last!



## 4 December 2013

The Relocation Group finalised the names of the rooms in the Emmanuel Centre. This was after an informal consultation with the membership. The Group, supported by members, worked to a general design concept for the interior of the building 'to bring the surrounding beautiful countryside into the building'. For example colours have been chosen to reflect this in various ways.

The theme of 'Trees' for room names was chosen to follow this philosophy and the final choices were: For the main or Worship room - Beech, for the supplementary meeting room - Sycamore, for the round room in the larch clad tower - Larch and for the downstairs coffee lounge - Rowan. Using these names will avoid various potential confusions. Each of these trees can be found in the immediate area and it is hoped that some varieties may be planted in appropriate areas of the site in due course, where their

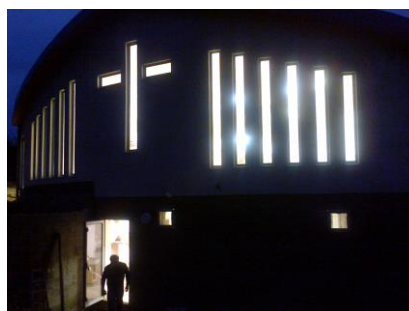
natural beauty and seasonal colour changes will complement the building.



## 7 December 2013

The electricity was turned on...at last. The meter was connected and the lights went on late on Thursday 5th. Much finishing work continued, with internal decoration and flooring and fitting out.

For the first time we were able to appreciate how the vestibule to the rooms on the upper floor will look as it is now fitted out with its serving worktop which will act as a holding area for refreshments at events.



Externally the car parking areas were nearing their final levels and the retaining walls on both sides of the buildings were being extended ready for backfilling. The conduit for the phone lines was being installed and work had just started on the new drainage solution which was enabled by permissions from Rother District Council/Southern Water to allow connection to the sewer from Starrs Green, through the adjacent woods rather than along half way along Harrier Lane which would have been hugely more expensive!



## 12 December 2013

A brief word from Alastair, project leader this week for the membership. 'Hopefully we are coming to the end of a frustrating

period in the build of the Emmanuel Centre. Although we will not 'get the keys' until January, Pinelog hope to finish the internal works before Christmas. The carpets are down, the walls and ceilings are painted and the light fittings are mostly installed. Once all the work is complete, Pinelog will carry out a thorough clean and then there will be a formal inspection to identify any little 'snags' that need to be dealt with.

Outside, there remains quite a bit to do in terms of paths, steps, handrails, fencing and of course tarmac to the road and car park. The position on funding remains fluid. The total for connecting all the services has just increased to £36k against the original estimates of £12k, so we need an additional £24k. We have asked for help from Circuit and District with these unexpectedly high costs and we wait to hear the outcome. So your prayers are still needed!

Pinelog have told us that mid-January is looking like a realistic date for the final handover to us.'

#### **14 December 2013**

It was at the stage of a project when progress appears painfully slow. Anyone who has had an extension to their house or even built their own house will know this stage. A lot appears finished but there are still a lot of fittings, finishing and snagging to do, so photos of the inside of the building do not show much change.

On site it was clear that externally a major amount of work had been done to

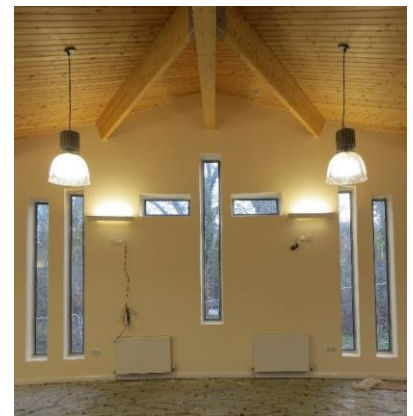
remove excess soil and to form car parks and roads and at last the final services - drains and telecom lines were going in - but these are not very photogenic! So the photos below show a new angle on the building from the large car park and the expanse of hardcore that is the car park itself.



#### **Just before the Christmas and New Year break - December 2013**

Internally the building was tidied up for the the closure period (Friday 20 Dec to Mon 6 Jan). Some finishing touches remained to be made, but it felt nice and warm in the building and the lighting features could be appreciated with large wall up-lighters and ceiling recessed lighting downstairs and in common areas. Externally patio slabs were laid at the front of the building and much of the road and car park curbing was in place. The four external lamp standards had been installed. The drainage

connection was completed and the only service still awaited was telecoms. So we awaited the New Year and completion at last, hoping that the January weather would be kind and enable work to proceed to completion as fast and smoothly as possible.



Thanks to Alastair for this photograph, only slightly enhanced with a star in the East by Photoshop.....