

JANUARY 2014

8 January 2014

A team of cleaners were hard at work tidying things up internally, and removing protective layers from window frames etc.

External work was about to recommence and the final preparations of the roads and car parks will be the obvious foci of work, although there are still areas internally which need snagging and checking and some external painting and touching up.

A site meeting was held to review progress and the earliest handover date then predicted was Friday 31st January.



The Beech Room, showing the partition to the Sycamore Room



The view from the Larch Room



An early January external view

12 January 2014

An update from Alastair. The wet weather had helped no-one, except possibly people who breed ducks!

Work on the building continued at a reasonable pace, but the out-side work on the roads and car park suffered. Keith and I attended a site meeting on January 8th and Pinelog set the likely handover date as Friday 31st January - but, as they said, the weather could still impact that date. (Unfortunately that did happen....)

We have identified a number of 'fixes' that are needed before the building is ready for us to take it on - but better to find these now than after we 'move in'.

The relocation team was now turning its corporate mind to how we will actually run the building. How many people will we need? What will they do? What training and qualifications will they need? At a special Church council meeting, you voted for the proposed hiring rates for the rooms. Now we need to put together the 'rules' for people to follow when they hire the building. Already we have a number of bookings in our 'diary' - which is really good news.

Andrew has been thinking about 'Open Days' where we invite organisations and individuals to visit and see for them-selves just what we have to offer. Exciting and challenging times lie ahead for us all.

We received £2k from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, which was really good news and Battle Town Council has given us £500. Both were very welcome and most encouraging.

And so far, three of our sister churches in the Circuit have sent donations towards the unexpectedly high costs of connecting the utility services. We hope for more generosity from the Circuit and from the District.

15 January 2014

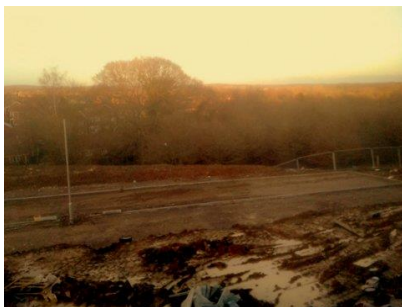
More than a bit of a blow today. Following an inspection by our agent and the architect problems were noted with the upstairs floor. The wet weather is the problem as the unfortunately unprotected boards became soaked several times during the downpours we have had and are not satisfactory at present.

17 January 2014

External work continues between rain showers. The main car park seems huge and the views below show how it was progressing.

Also at last the foul drain was connected to the main sewer, a very unexciting but important event. Thanks are due to Rother District Council for allowing access over their land and to Southern Water for

permission to connect to the main drain from Starrs Mead which runs just to the east of the Emmanuel site.



The 42 place car park takes shape and a very expensive but essential manhole

24 January 2014

Things were getting back on track and we were more confident that we could get a handover date that would enable us to move in furnishings in mid to late February and to start services and make the Centre available for other functions from early to mid March.

The internal snagging inspection was made yesterday and work continues apace on finishing things off. The cooker hood has been installed in the kitchen...now for a cooker!

Externally the patio has now been nearly finished and the path laid to the middle car park, with work started on the steps up to the patio from the lower car park.

General work on the final road drains to soakaways and on the entrance is well in hand. It is just possible that tarmac will be laid towards the end of next week, dependent on progress and of course the weather.



The Beech room L,
the Sycamore room R



View from the Larch room into the Beech Room



The patio and access path



Cooker hood in situ

29 January 2014

Nearly the end of the month! All was going well with the snagging inside the building with a long list of fiddly bits to make good.

Fortunately a simple solution worked on the floor boarding, but the floor coverings had to be lifted and relaid.

Externally as much progress as possible was being made but the heavy rain continued to make external work very difficult, as can be seen on the photograph.

The full form of the lower car park can be seen with the central road and parking areas to each side.

The good news is that the patio and front paths are laid and the back path and steps from the lower car park to the patio are being constructed.

Not much new to photograph now.....The front sign post has been delivered, but will not be erected for a few weeks.



The car park – getting there- slowly



The Entrance sign board – to be erected.....