

## **Update on the state of the church**

After a visit from the church architect and a structural engineer, we have been told the nave is unsafe, due to the roof. This is in addition to the chancel, which has been roped off since November.

We have, however, been assured it is safe to use the south aisle for services as the roof is of different construction.

This being so, we can hold Sunday services as normal. We have a comfortable capacity for 50-60. We can hold baptisms but not at the font and we can still hold funerals– we can use the bowl that is in the font and move it somewhere safe. We can hold funerals as there is space at the front of the church for a coffin. We have been in touch with Martin Brown, to keep him in the loop. We can also hold smaller weddings - they'll just be more intimate.

**Works to be done** – will involve scaffolding to go up and assessment and repair each of the cross bars in the roof, re-slate the roof. Potentially look at the floor. Were hoping to bundle the work on the toilet and kitchen in with the repairs.

**Next steps** – we need the architect and structural engineer to return to do a comprehensive inspection (2-3 days) and write a complete report. Then, fund raising for the work and finding the appropriate craftsmen, will begin and we are hopeful of getting the funds required as the church is Grade 1 listed.

All of this will take a few years but we will adapt to the space, find out what works and what doesn't.

Cheryl Payne