

St Patrick's Ballymena

Emergency Repair Update

January 2021



Update on the Emergency Repairs to Organ Loft Ceiling at St Patrick's.

Some of you may have noticed contractor vans parked outside the church recently. This is because we have had to start work on repairing some of the problems associated with the dry rot problem we have in our church.

Back in late November we had been asked by our consultant to carry out a visual inspection on the state of the dry rot as it had been two years since the previous emergency repairs had taken place.

During the inspection it was noticed that one of the main wooden beams holding up the ceiling in the organ loft had deteriorated quite badly.

As you can imagine this caused us serious concern, mainly for the safety of organ itself and also to the ringing room floor above.



As a result and with the approval of the Select Vestry we contacted our governing body, the RCB in Dublin, to seek their permission to carry out emergency repairs within the bell tower.

This was granted and we put the wheels in motion. Just before Christmas the contactor arrived to erect a protective “birdcage” around the organ in order to fully protect this valuable instrument, and to allow access to the ceiling above.





Work has been ongoing ever since with all the rotten wooden beams being removed and the internal walls being treated for the effects of the dry rot. The work will continue over the next few weeks to replace all the wooden beams with steel girders and reinstate the organ loft ceiling and the ringing room floor.

We will update you further when the work has been completed.

Ronnie Fleming, Hon Secretary, on behalf of the Select Vestry.

