



Roofing Project 2024

Introduction

We are looking to raise funds to begin the refurbishment of our church roof. If this is a project that interests you, please read on!

Use of the building

River of Life church building is a building valued by the community.

Around 200 people use it each week. Not only is there a church service and mid-week prayer meeting but it is used by a local community choir, NCT (National Childbirth Trust), keep fit and CA (Cocaine Anonymous) groups. It is used by a local school for their harvest and carol services and by many different people during the year as a venue for events such as craft fairs, anniversary celebrations and funerals. In recent years the building has been a Night Shelter and Soup Kitchen for the homeless and a debt advice centre. It has also been used as a venue for fundraising events for both the homeless in Worthing and the poor in India.

The main hall and associated facilities are suitable for larger gatherings but the smaller rooms and kitchen facilities make the venue valuable for other uses as well e.g. training courses, social events.

Various charities started life from the River of Life building in particular Acorn Pregnancy Counselling Centre (www.acornworthing.org.uk) and Link to Hope (www.linktohope.co.uk).

Roof Project 2024

The project costs £36,205 (quote of £32,913 + 10% contingency including inflation). As at March 2024 we have raised £29,533 being donations from church members and including grants of £2,100 from Benefact Trust and £4,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

The building

A building was first erected on the site in 1922 for use as a church. Rebuilding occurred in 1938 incorporating many art deco features in particular various stained glass windows. It was purchased by the church fellowship that became River of Life Church in 1992. Situated on the busy Broadwater Road north of Worthing town centre, immediately opposite a parade of shops, it is in a predominantly residential area of houses and flats of varying ages and construction.

The building is not in a conservation area and is not listed however it is felt desirable to retain and protect the period features wherever possible.

Vision of the church

Our church motto is 'Loving God, loving people' and the inspiration for this comes from Jesus' words in Matthew 22 v 37,38 - this is the basis of all we do.

Our vision as a church and the inspiration for our name 'River of Life' comes from the Bible, in Ezekiel 47 v 1-12. 'The river flows from the throne of God and brings life wherever it flows.'

- We want the church to be a place where people flourish in their relationship with God and with one another.
- We want to see life springing up all around us as people come to know God and experience his love.
- We want to be people who reflect that love to each other and to our community.

The need

Built in the 1920s and 1930s, the building is starting to show its age. This in particular is evidenced in the roof which is comprised of a variety of flat and pitched roof structures. Over a number of years leaks have occurred which have been repaired on a piecemeal basis. The conclusion however has been reached that in order to preserve the multiple uses of the building for the future the roof needs to be replaced.

We have been quoted an overall cost of approximately £150,000 to replace all the roofs.

Following detailed discussions with a number of roofing companies however, it is clear that the major areas of water penetration are the flat roofs and in particular some 24 glass roof lights which enhance the provision of natural light into the main church hall. We are advised that addressing the flat roof areas could potentially deal with 75% of the water penetration issues.

We have therefore decided to prioritise the flat roofs with the pitched roofs being addressed at a later date. We have obtained quotes from 3 local roofing companies and our preference is to choose one local builder, given the quality of previous work done, reputation and experience. The quote of £32,913 includes replacement of all the roof lights and provision of high-performance liquid waterproofing with a certified lifespan of over 25 years.

We hope you feel this is a worthwhile project and we look forward to your support. Our website shows photos and a link for donations, and the latest updates. Thank you.