

## Project Type: Repairs: woodblock floor

**Project Title:** Barton Church Floor Project

**Location:** St Peter's, Barton

**Aims:** To refurbish the wood block floor at the west end of the nave

**Total Cost:** £2750 (plus lots of volunteer time)

### Funding Sources:

- PCC funds and donations
- Sales of 'signed' blocks
- Grant from Barton Village Trust

**Project Duration:** August – December 2024

### Brief Overview

In June 2024 the quinquennial report highlighted a need to refurbish the wood block floor at the west end of the nave. Damp, rising through the old concrete subfloor, had caused rot in some 15% of the softwood blocks and much of the oak edging boards. In August, the PCC, with architect's approval, agreed to local volunteers undertaking most of the work, but to be finished off by professional sanding and final surface treatment.

After moving seven pews which covered part of the floor, some 1300 old wood blocks were lifted. About 200 were rotted, so rejected, the balance being scraped clean by a dozen volunteers to be made ready for re-use. 200 new blocks of slow-grown Douglas Fir were sourced, as were 15 linear metres of Oak edging, all being cut to 34mm thick with other appropriate dimensions.

The exposed concrete subfloor was scraped clean, various holes filled and a thin screed of self-levelling mortar applied. Next, a resin-based damp-proof membrane was painted on and, once set, topped by a further thin layer of mortar. Onto this were stuck the new and the recycled blocks in a herringbone pattern. Angled cuts were required to about a hundred blocks to fit the edging.

All the new blocks, a third of which had been undersigned by purchasing donors, were grouped together, being lighter coloured.

At the start of December, Dominic Longhurst of Revive Your Floor, machine sanded the whole area, which was then treated with two coats of hard-wax oil. Finally, the pews were returned to their locations and the job completed.

**Tip:** The quinquennial estimate of £15,000 had allowed for replacement with all new blocks and for other contingencies, so our achievement at under £3,000 is not a fair comparison. Nevertheless, it shows the value of focussed volunteers, if appropriate and where available. There is added satisfaction in parishioners working together for their community.



**Website:** [The Parish Church of St Peter, Barton](https://www.stpeterbarton.org.uk/)