

FABRIC REPORT

DRY ROT

It is with regret that I have to inform you of this latest problem to the Church structure. Yes, we have an outbreak of dry rot showing at the disabled ramp door and north balcony stairs. Also severe surface cracking in the walls and ceiling in that area.

I have had estimates for the remedial work. As usual it is detailed and has a caveat re the outbreak being more widespread than can be seen at the moment. I have contacted 121 George Street who advised me, that to get a package of help, I need to employ a preservation architect. This would allow us to start the work, subject to their inspection, without any loss of grant normally imposed by work starting before an application is completed.

They supplied me with a choice of people whom they recommended, from which I have chosen Rosalind Taylor. I met with her twenty four hours later on Tuesday 8th September. I pointed out the extremely swift expansion of the outbreak, and after inspection and discussion, as I hoped, I was given permission to proceed. After consultation with our treasurer that same evening, the contractor's estimates have been accepted and they have been given permission to start as soon as possible.

SOUND EQUIPMENT

On a more positive note, the sound equipment for the band has been tested in the church and proved very successful. You may recall that the money was raised by the Praise Band themselves. One immediate factor of this trial run was, at last we could adjust and balance the band sound and so were able to hear the singers. Unfortunately the installation of this equipment will be delayed until the dry rot work is completed, as the ceiling will be taken down and replaced over the proposed sound control area.

DISABLED RAMP

Secondly, the good news continues with the installation of a 'regulation-complying' ramp for the disabled. No more hurtling down the too steep slope! With further new regulations

creating a space by the differing lengths of the two parts of the ramp, we were able to incorporate into the design, a set of steps for the able-bodied to use the doorway directly.

Support for fabric fundraising events, such as our Victorian Fayre, is now more important than ever, to allow us to continue to deal with the ongoing problems of our structural heritage.

*Ian Rule
Fabric Convenor*

Life's Pathway

At times, life's path seems filled with things
that make the going rough,
And we wish there were a smoother road
for we feel we've had enough ...

But, if we pause a moment
and remember Who's in charge,
The hills that look ahead of us
no longer seem so large.

And every rock before us,
when we know we're not alone,
Becomes, not just a stumbling block,
but one more stepping stone.

Emily Matthews

Contributed by Margaret Clark

A LITTLE 'HOLY' HUMOUR

SAY A PRAYER



Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother. 'I don't need to,' the boy replied. 'Of course, you do,' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!'