

Note on the condition of the surfaces around the ash tree

The parish is due to start work on a small community room extension on the south side of the site in connection with re-landscaping of the external area on the west side.

The plans, which have gained planning approval showed the retention of the tree within the new hard landscaping, however it has been increasingly the cause of disruption to the adjoining surfaces/ The photographs show the considerable effect of tree root activity, and it is a useful coincidence that the pavings and low wall are due to be replaced in the pending alteration work.

A recent report on the condition of the tree did not conclude that it was in a dangerous state, however we have two concerns that support the parish's proposal to replace it with a smaller ornamental tree.

1. The tree root activity has been accelerating, and it will not be possible to protect the approved landscaping details without a re-design that incorporates a much larger un-paved area, which would encroach on the main circulation areas in front of the west doors.
2. The tree is relatively close to the building and a large London Plane on the public footpath, leaving the growth of its crown quite restricted to a vertical orientation that is at the point of outstripping the height of the building. The church would like to replace it with a smaller ornamental tree that would be easier to maintain. Historic photography indicates that the tree has only been there since the 1970's, and there is a keen desire to avoid future problems if major work is required that would disrupt the work being undertaken this year.



View from south



Detail at base

Overleaf – Photo from Historic England archive March 1967

The tree in question was not present in the photograph. The proposal to replace it, in connection with the approved landscaping work, will still result in the scene being much greener than depicted at that time.

