

St Catherine's and St Paul's Rainbow Mosaic Project

The aims of the project are:

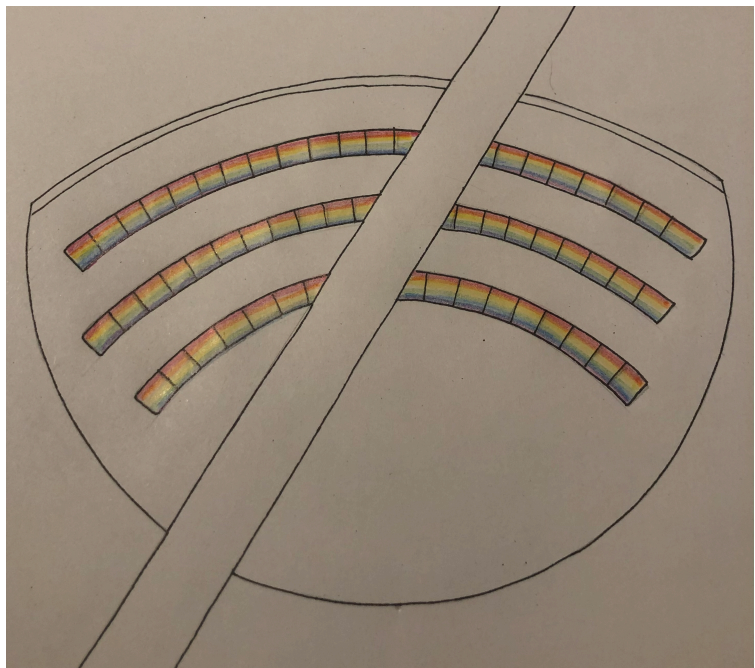
- To say thank you from the local community to all who are working to bring us through this pandemic.
- To strengthen the links between us after a time when people may well have become more isolated
- To make the churchyard a lovely place for local residents to sit



The mosaics will be installed to the rear of the church in a semi-circle of ground backed by a retaining wall through which a path runs to the flats below the church. People from the flats regularly walk through the churchyard and others come to sit on the benches during the day and in the evening. The ground at the base of the benches is currently mud with embedded rubbish as the footfall is too high for grass.

The project would aim to enhance the area by the installation of block paving, some new planting above the wall and sections of mosaic, set into the block paving, to be viewed from the seating or the wall above. The whole mosaic design will use about 50 separate 60cm x 60 cm concrete paving slabs, each of which will be covered in glass mosaic tiles, grouted and sealed.

Each paving slab will have the seven colours of the rainbow in bands across it and these will fit together to make three large rainbows— a symbol of God bringing people through a crisis. The rainbow has also become a national symbol of gratitude to the NHS staff and other key workers who have been working so hard to help us get through this pandemic. There will also be a mosaic panel bearing some explanatory text and a date somewhere within the area. A simple design made of identical panels has been chosen to maximise the possibility of community involvement. Those who have helped to make one panel will be able to explain to others what they need to do.

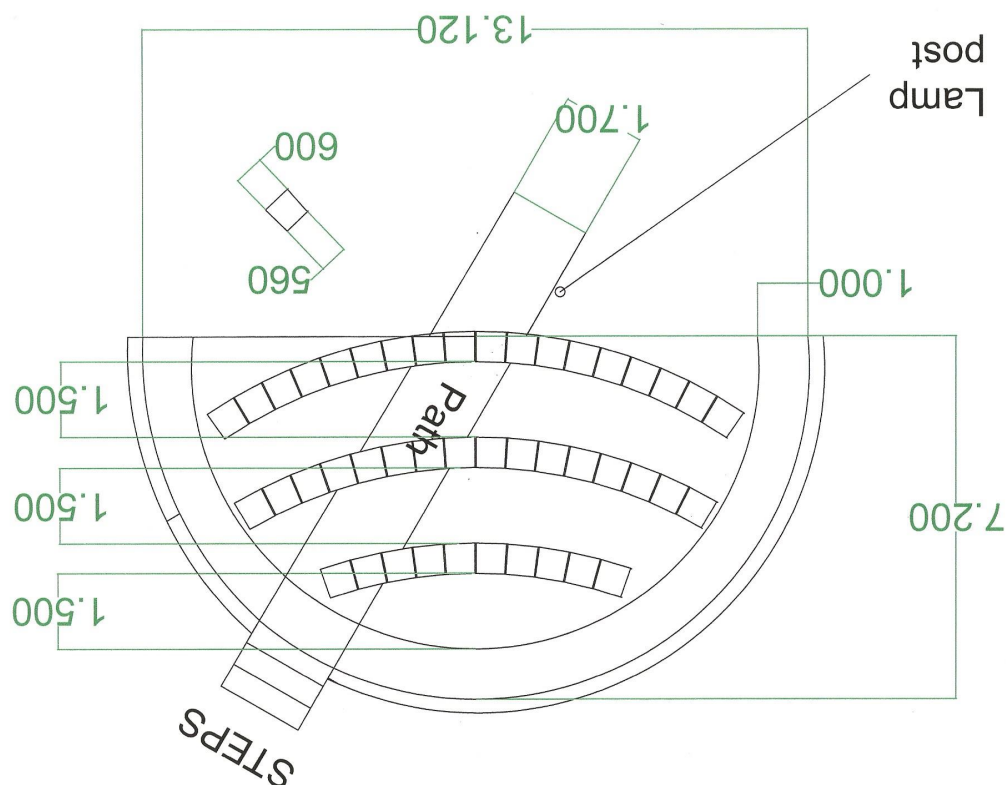


The tiles will be a mixture of 20mm square and 10mm square tiles in a range of hues of each colour (i.e. the tiles for the red band of each panel will be a blend of about 8 different reds, some of them iridescent, some with gold flecks etc which will avoid a 'blocky effect', instead giving a variety of tone). The tiles have no sharp edges. The panels will have lines marked on them showing where the edges of each band of colour should lie but within these bands participants will have freedom as to how to arrange their tiles. Each person will be given bags of premixed tiles in calculated quantities to ensure an evenness of tone across the different panels.



These four smaller panels were produced by a team of novice mosaic workers over the course of an afternoon as part of a pilot project. One of our symbols, the Catherine wheel, is throwing out sparks of light and joy into the darkness around. The background blue of the mosaic panels gives an idea of the effect that is produced by using different sizes and tones of tile, creating an attractive mottled effect.

Below is a scale drawing of how the panels will fit within the area (measurements in metres). Each paving slab will have been pre-cut into a very slight wedge shape (shown inset, measurements in mm) to achieve the arc of the rainbows when they are assembled. They will be set on concrete and surrounded by block-paving set on sand. To ensure a safe walkway through the area, the path will cut through the rainbows as shown in the drawing on the previous page.



Claire Costello, a mosaic artist with considerable experience of community mosaic projects is acting as a consultant on the project. Do contact the church office if you'd like to be involved.

Julian Pennant

21/4/2021