

Update 19

Saturday 17 March 2023

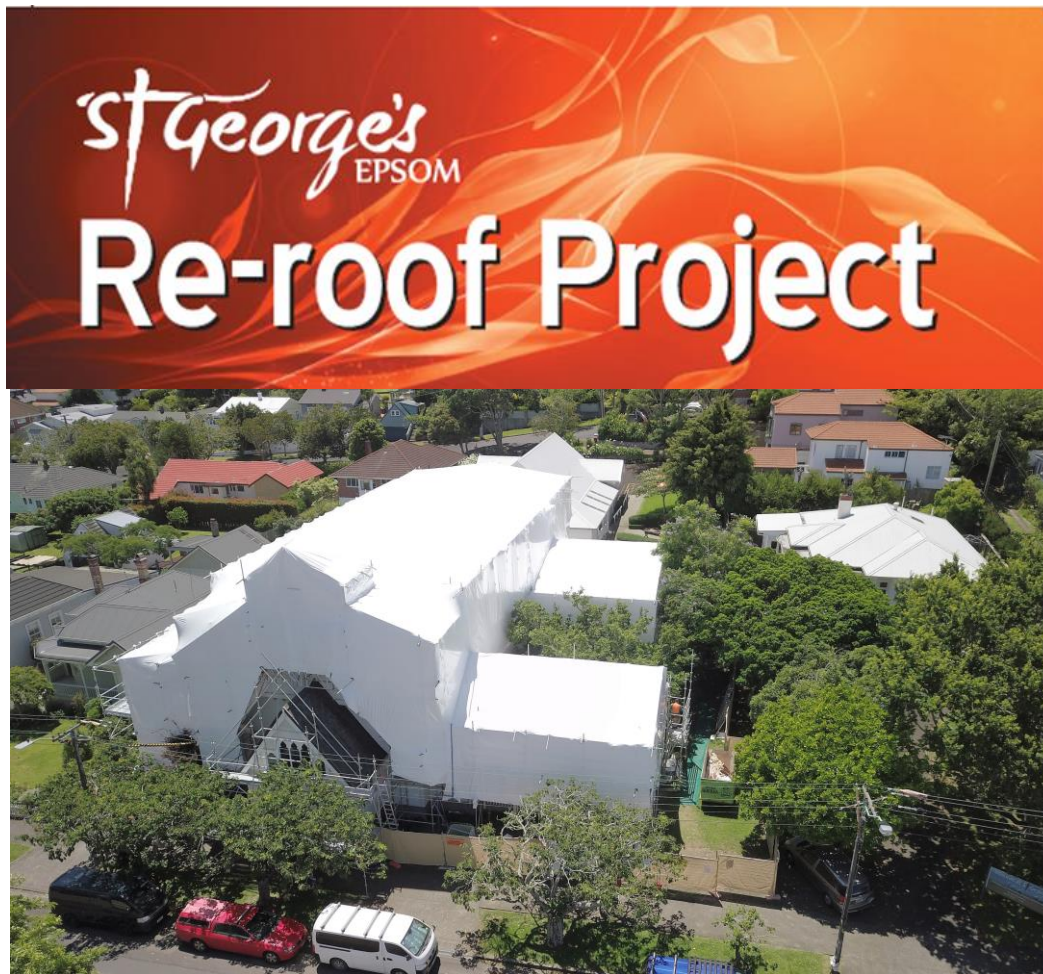


Photo courtesy of the builders across the road.

Under the covers new roof tiles are steadily covering the timber work.

The sounds of construction work have reduced because the carpentry team is down to three, preparing the road-front porch roof for tiling and connecting the new roof structure to the top plate of the walls in the main body of the church. Both those pieces of work are nearing completion and the tilers are methodically installing the new tiles – easily the most routine part of the whole job.

We're on the home straight but pesky problems still crop up. One unusual one emerged when we inspected the bell mechanism just in case, while the high scaffolding is there, and discovered that part of the cast iron bearing housing on one end of the bell axle has completely fractured and the one at the other end is cracked.

The fractured part was poorly repaired some time ago and both parts appear to have been in bad condition for a long time. The 70mm-thick solid bronze bell probably weighs several tonnes and we know from previous damage to the timber structure that bell ringers past have exceeded the tower's swing-limits. We have therefore commissioned a foundry to cast replacement parts, this time in stainless steel. It's not expensive but supply takes 4-6 weeks. Hopefully it won't delay the dismantling of the scaffolding.

Steve Barnett, Project Lead