

Nether Heyford Parish Church

Temporary Closure Outside Service Times

Why access to the church is currently restricted

During recent works to remove the old choir stalls, part of our long-term plan to create a more welcoming, flexible space, we uncovered a serious structural problem in one section of the floor. Severe damp has caused rotten boards and decayed joists. Although the area is barriered off, the damage still poses a safety risk if people move around the building unaccompanied. For this reason, the church is temporarily closed to general open access outside service times while repairs are carried out.

The church *is open* for worship, celebrations, and events

All services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, concerts, and church events continue as normal. Sidespeople and welcomers are present to guide everyone safely, and barriers keep the damaged area secure. Please do not stay away, your presence matters.

If you wish to visit outside service times, for prayer or any other reason, we are very happy to arrange an accompanied visit. Please contact a churchwarden or member of the ministry team.

Why this work matters

Removing the choir stalls was approved to create a flexible, welcoming space for refreshments, informal gatherings, concerts, talks, and visitors. That vision remains unchanged. Before completing it, we must address the structural damage to ensure the building is safe and protected for future generations.

Our commitment to the community

We know how important this church is to the village, spiritually, historically, and socially. Restricting open access is not something we do lightly, but it is the responsible course of action while repairs are underway.

The PCC is working with advisers and the Diocese to resolve the issues as quickly as possible and will keep the community updated.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support.