

Well, would you believe it!

A well has been discovered underneath the foundations of the entrance of East Leake Methodist Church, by workmen making repairs. Senior steward, Bryan Harrison, said "We're told it's a farm well, about 3 m across, and was partly filled in with rubble when the church extensions were built in the 1980s. These foundations weren't as deep as the foundations of the original 1930s church hall -- the core of our current Church -- and started to come away from the old building, so we had to begin major underpinning work. As the contractors were working they discovered that some of the cracks that we'd noticed in our entrance hall, which we thought were due to the subsidence, were actually because the foundations had been built across this old well."

There have been several suggestions about what the Church should do now that it's discovered the well underneath the building. The Minister, Kim Goh, said "I suggested to our Church Treasurer, Roger Latham, that I could bless the well and we could open it up as a tourist attraction as "The Holy Well of East Leake!". He suggested in reply that we might be able to set up a water bottling plant and sell the contents!" "I regret though", Bryan Harrison said, "that we're going to have to fill the well in to make the building secure, so these bright ideas aren't going to happen. We do know, however, that other wells have been discovered when extensions and building works have been done in nearby properties so we wonder whether or not there's a whole line of them which were the original wells for the farms that used to face onto Main Street in the past. We did think of writing to our Local History Society to tell them of the well and invite them to look into it!", he joked.

Note to editors.

East Leake Methodist Church is undertaking a major £130,000 renovation scheme to underpin the extensions to the former Church Hall which now serves as East Leake Methodist Church. The Church has been supported in this work by several major donations from the Methodist Church, Rushcliffe Borough Council, and Veolia Environmental Trust. The work is expected to take until July to complete and the Church hopes to have a formal reopening at the beginning of September. In the meantime the Church continues to be used heavily by community groups representing all parts of the East Leake community.