

# A church building fit for twenty-first century Worship, Mission and Community Use



*Why are we doing this?*

People are excluded from worship and the congregation is thwarted in its attempts to provide outreach services to those on the edge of society whom the statutory services do not reach

*We seek to fulfil the gospel imperative of loving our neighbour in new ways:*

- Breakfast and after school clubs for schoolchildren to fill gaps in existing provision
- Lunch time meetings for the isolated, especially those in sheltered accommodation
- Re-engaging with those excluded by disability access issues
- Providing a safe haven for those who live at the secure mental hospital, but visit in the day

*The project will deliver:*

- A building fully fit for church and community use
- Preservation of the existing Grade 1 structure by virtue of its being in daily use, providing a paradigm for preservation of large rural Grade 1 listed churches across the country, and thereby saving heritage that may otherwise be lost to the nation



The whole nave will have a flat floor of stone with underfloor heating. Chairs, rather than pews in the central part of the nave, will allow for flexibility in shaping the worship space and for other events and purposes

This view, looking west shows the new gallery under which there will be an area that can be open, as shown, or with glazed screen doors pulled across to separate it from the nave



Beyond the under-gallery will be a kitchen and utility area, to the right a small vestry and 3 lavatories and to the left, a new entrance lobby from the porch to the main building, with stairs and a lift going to the upper floor. Upstairs, 3 new meeting rooms will provide, in conjunction with the gallery space, for a wide variety of activities, from Sunday teaching for our young people to space for confidential discussions and larger gatherings. Within the under-gallery a second moveable glass screen can create a crèche area.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has long recognised that the facilities still in use following the last major internal reordering some 150 years ago are wholly unsuitable for present day needs. The building is not fit for purpose and constrains the church in its Christian and community mission. It is expensive to maintain and operate, frequently cold, and always cluttered through lack of appropriate storage. This hinders attendance and participation by the elderly, disabled, and less mobile.

Piecemeal changes over many decades have left the building shabby, with its inherent beauty and grandeur severely compromised, with the result that we don't fit **in** the church, but have to fit **around** the church

This inspirational project prioritises the needs of worship and mission, along with providing facilities that will be a resource for the whole community

The plans for the church will:

- **make the building a welcoming and flexible place of worship**
- **create meeting spaces for children and young people, for teaching, fellowship and outreach**
- **provide suitable catering facilities, toilets and storage**
- **equip the building for use as a flexible resource for the whole community**



The PCC has launched an ambitious fundraising strategy to raise the £1,200,000 now needed to complete the required works. So far approximately £300,000 has been pledged and some £40,000 has been raised, on top of the £125,000 spent to develop the plans and obtain the Faculty.



**The church building transformed and fit for the twenty-first century**

