

THE 'ALL SAINTS FORWARD' PROJECT HAS BEGUN

A core group set up by the PCC to guide the discovery of new purpose and opportunity for All Saints' Church has begun work. The first project meeting in February coincided with 4 days of interviews with the congregation and community. People were asked about 'church life' in Winterton as it is now. The next step is to consider the role of the church in best serving its community. The whole enquiry is expected to take about 11 months, to allow plenty of time for involvement and discussion

The initial part of the enquiry, the Cultural Audit, started on 26 February with some 60 people involved during the following days in face to face or telephone interviews. Chair of the core project group Robin Shawyer said, *"Those involved represented All Saints congregation, local Methodist and Roman Catholic friends, the town council, schools, youth organisations and community voluntary groups. The object was to gain an overview of the 'way we do things around here'. Some things, no doubt, we do well; others probably not so well: but it is on a better understanding of these things, that our purposes for the future will be built."*

Alastair Simmons, the facilitator and consultant engaged from TASKSCAPE ASSOCIATES Ltd to carry out the interviews will report back fully once the write up has been completed and work on the role of the church begun- but his initial reaction is that the willing involvement of so many in our community bodes very well for the rest of the project. A few people expressed concern at the cost of involving third party help The PCC decided, after due deliberation, that spending money in this way, involving a professional consultant from outside our parish, was crucial to ensure that a robust set of proposals was developed. This will stand us in very good stead if a decision is eventually reached which requires a substantial grant application to be made.

The core group, which is drawn from some members of the PCC and representatives of the congregation, met on 28 February to begin to look at the way in which the process of the enquiry will be developed. They decided to name the project '**All Saints Forward**': and set a target date of January 2010 for the completion of the initial phase. Only at that stage, will new 'purposes' and a potential plan for the future be fully developed.

From now until next January, the core group will try to ensure that everyone is kept informed via the parish magazine and notices within All Saints. Where possible it will invite ideas and contributions from interested persons who are not members of the core group so that the thinking benefits from the expertise within our community. Any concrete proposals are obviously some way off but when made, they will be conveyed to the congregation and wider community by the PCC - so that our church at All Saints does remain 'our church' for the whole town of Winterton.

Members of the core group are as follows:

Revd Alice Nunn, Revd Jane Whitehead, Revd Bill Pegg, Eric Burton, Margaret Holtby, Frank Jervis, Jean Key, Derek Liversidge, Ida Liversidge, Robin Shawyer, Russell Walshaw, Shirley White, Dorothy Yeadon.

Please direct any thoughts or enquiries – in the first instance – to Robin Shawyer, Treasurer of the PCC and Chair of the core group [tel: 01724 734285 or e-mail: rdshawyer@gmail.com]