

All Saints Forward: Phase 2 is now well under way in Winterton

Since the end of Phase 1 in February a great deal of work has been taking place to ensure the success of Phase 2. The completion of Phase 1 saw our architect, Brian Foxley, present some fascinating design concepts for the future of All Saints, Winterton. Phase 2 requires us to refine these ideas for the development of our church and to consider how best to obtain the funding needed to bring this about.

We have thus expanded our Core Group [now 23 volunteers] to include a wider cross-section of both our church and our community. We are extremely grateful that so many very busy people are prepared to devote their time and expertise to our project. Phase 2 has so far had two key group meetings in April and July. A good deal of thinking has been needed partly to refine the design concepts for the re-ordering of All Saints and partly to plan the nature of our submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding sources for grants. Further meetings will take place in the autumn.

The submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund will focus on the benefits to our local heritage in conserving both the church building but also the many artefacts and documents which are currently hidden away because of a lack of secure, modern display. For example, we have the six original West Gallery wind instruments last used in our church in the 19th century together with a number of original music manuscripts. We have been advised that this is an almost unique collection which has already brought keen interest at national level from researchers and West Gallery musicians. We also have the 1844 Winterton Tithe Rent Charge map and schedule which lists every occupier within the old medieval area of the town, still subject at that time to pay tithes to the vicar. The map and schedule are both extremely fragile but offer a great insight into Winterton life in the 1840s. We wish to use these, and other elements of our heritage, to tell the story of our church in our community.

The Core Group is seeking to acquire funding both to conserve this heritage and to ensure that it is made widely available to school students, interest groups and visitors. In order to achieve this objective, members of the Core Group have held discussions with schools and several local organisations so as to ensure that this submission encompasses community and not just church ambitions in relation to our heritage.

In addition the group has started the process of refining the architect's concepts for our church. The various options presented are all based on our Statements of Purpose agreed in 2009 and, while conserving the mediaeval fabric of the building, include, for example, the provision of a full kitchen facility; a new stair access for the tower; re-opening the North porch as an entrance with new toilets; and the creation of a new meeting room and a new west gallery. Each of these requires very careful scrutiny to ensure we meet the objectives set in our Statements of Purpose so that both worship and secular needs are met. In particular we wish our church to be a sustainable resource for the community as well as a centre for worship, a dual function it has performed for most of its 900 year life. We have already submitted an Expression of Interest form to enquire about LEADER funding [which is European Union money made available for the development of rural communities]. Other funding sources are yet to be approached.

As well as all this, the Group has been trying to make sure that our plans are well known in our community. There is a display in the church, which was also shown at the recent Winterton Show, and discussions have been held with a number of interested people. There is also full information about all these plans on our website at <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/> If you would like to know more about this project, please enquire – in the first instance – to Robin Shawyer, Chair of the Core Group [tel: 01724 734285 or e-mail: rdshawyer@gmail.com]