

Vision for the future of All Saints Church, Winterton

Winterton Parochial Church Council [the PCC] with the help of the All Saints church community needs to look at its priorities; how we use our premises for the good of All Saints and in our endeavour to serve the wider community. On his visits [2005 and subsequently] the Bishop of Grimsby has challenged us all to develop our vision and plan for the future. The PCC has a duty to consider the future for the church community at All Saints [the people] and also for the building itself.

Our church is "The most important listed building [in Winterton] with its Saxo-Norman tower and nave, medieval aisles, chancel and transepts, and a series of restorations from the mid-17th century to that of 1904 by CF Fowler. It is listed Grade I." [Winterton Conservation Area Appraisal – March 2002]. Any plans must respect this heritage but also meet the needs of our community into the future.

Such planning has happened many times in the history of our church. The Victorian period saw a major new vision with resulting plans which brought re-roofing, the installation of an organ, the removal of the west gallery and the installation of the present pews amongst other developments.

Since the Bishop's challenge the PCC has considered how best to develop such a vision and plan for the 21st century. Though All Saints is a Grade 1 listed building, the PCC still has a duty to consider how best the building should meet the needs of both the congregation and the wider community in the foreseeable future. Apart from the Bishop's challenge, there are Health and Safety issues and access for disabled people to consider.

The PCC has been careful to take advice about how best to proceed. The first stage will involve two parts as outlined below. This initial phase of work will take the vision to a stage where the needs of the congregation and the wider community are identified and possible proposals for the building are outlined. At this point the PCC can consider whether to implement all, some or none of the proposed suggestions and to seek funding if a project for the building is to be implemented.

The two parts of the initial phase are:

[1] An assessment of the existing church building, including a full digital survey. This will be led by Brian Foxley who is a chartered architect with considerable experience in church conservation, repair, re-ordering, cost control and project management.

[2] A cultural audit: 'Culture' is defined as 'the way we do things around here'. This will involve interviewing a broad sample of both the congregation and the wider community [individually, in groups and some over the phone] about their perception of the life and work of All Saints. The resulting report will give us an excellent snapshot of the current state of play and peoples' hopes and aspirations. It will help the PCC enormously in charting a way forward as it will indicate what community needs must be met.

Since it is vital that this consultation process is impartial and detailed, the PCC has engaged Alastair Simmons of Taskscape Associates Ltd to lead the work. He has significant experience in this type of work for both charities and commercial organisations.

Taskscape are to begin their work in Winterton between 26th February – 1st March by interviewing a sample of members from All Saints and the wider community we serve. The sample has been chosen simply to provide a very good distribution of members across age, gender, length of membership, and geographic spread. If you are in this sample you will be contacted asking you to confirm your participation and clarifying the arrangements. However, this does not prevent anyone from being interviewed or taking part in the process. If you are interested in being involved in the process, the Vicar (Tel: 01724 732262 or email: alicenunn@tiscali.co.uk) will be happy to hear from you. The interviews are each likely to last about 45 minutes. Those asked to take part in an interview do not need to make any type of preparation.

The PCC is determined to aim for a transparent process of consultation throughout this period of developing a vision and plan for All Saints. Every effort will be made to keep all members of the congregation and the wider community informed at each stage of the process.

Rev Alice Nunn: Vicar
Mrs Jean Key: Churchwarden
Dr Russell Walshaw: Churchwarden
February 2009