

THIRD STEP FOR 'ALL SAINTS FORWARD'

The All Saints Forward project has now taken a third step. At the first step in February there were four days of interviews with a wide cross-section of the congregation and community at which people were asked about 'church life' in Winterton as it is now. The second step in April required the Core Group to consider the future sustainable Purposes of All Saints' Church at workshop sessions.

Since April there has been on-going refinement of the draft Statements of Purpose which arose from these workshop sessions. Core Group members have given further thought to the statements and a sub-group met with Rev Alice Nunn and our facilitator, Alastair Simmons of Taskscape Associates Ltd, to consider the theology which underpins the statements.

Step three involved the Group in a whole day meeting on 3rd September. In the morning there was extensive discussion to ensure the final draft of the Statements of Purpose met with the full support of all group members. Later in the day Alastair fed back the findings from the interviews held in February. The group now has to consider the extent of the 'match' between the Purposes and the interview comments from the wide cross-section of our congregation and community. Once this has been done during September there will be the chance for the Purposes to be shared more widely and further input made by members of the congregation and community.

Also present at the meeting was Brian Foxley, our project architect. He came to listen to the many points made in order to learn more about our church life, how the building is used currently and how this might change in the future. This will then allow him to develop ideas about how the best aspects of our beautiful building can be maintained but the space be used in more flexible ways.

The next meeting for the Core Group will be in early October when Brian and Alastair will lead a workshop to explore how the agreed Purposes of All Saints can be best expressed by its building and environment.

This will then lead on to the end of the initial stage of the All Saints Forward project by late January/early February 2010. At this point a project report will identify the Purposes of All Saints, the activities desired, together with some indication of the time, team and tasks to achieve this. Brian will show some concept designs for the church spaces with illustrations in 2D and 3D and a consultation period with the wider church community will follow as decisions will need to be made about the future of the building.

The Core Group continues to feel much enthusiasm for the process so far and is boosted by the evident support of our wider congregation and community in the detailed feedback given by Alastair from the interviews in February. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this. The group hopes to issue an update about All Saints Forward to everyone who was involved in the February consultation during October.

If you would like to know more about this project, please enquire – 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]