

Archdeacon says All Saints Forward project is a model of good practice

The Venerable Jane Sinclair, Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey, was invited to the All Saints Forward Core Group meeting on Monday 18th January 2010. Having heard all the details of our progress to date, she told us that our project was a model of good practice and gave us very strong encouragement to move further ahead developing our ideas for our church organisation and our building. She asked to be kept fully informed and said she would welcome invitations to attend future key briefing meetings.

The Core Group discussed in detail the plan for the public meeting from 10am on Saturday 13th February on the Future of All Saints' Church. It will be held at Trinity Methodist Church so that workshop groups can be sat at tables. Brian Foxley, our project architect, will present his design concepts for the building which will illustrate the options leading on from our agreed Statements of Purpose. There will be the chance for clarification of these ideas and discussions. In the afternoon we will consider 'next steps' and 'how to achieve the end result'.

The public meeting effectively marks the end of Phase 1 of the All Saints Forward project. The Chair, Robin Shawyer, thanked all members of the group for their time and contributions to date.

The Core Group then talked about a possible Phase 2. Brian Foxley explained that after his presentation of the Design Concepts, Phase 2 moves on to the detailed design, build and use/occupation of the re-ordered church. A half-way stage is Faculty Approval [after which contractors are engaged]. To reach RIBA Stage D could take 12 to 18 months. There needs to be enough time to reflect and ensure that the detailed designs being developed really do meet the requirements of our purposes.

Our facilitator Alastair Simmons, of TASKSCAPE ASSOCIATES Ltd, explained that a host of other things need to run alongside the design planning: the development of the church organisation itself which has already started; fund raising for the project which must be merged with the annual current account funding; good communications with the community; marketing issues; specialist user groups to consider how particular planned spaces in the church are to be used; a consideration whether there are any direct income streams possible to defray annual overheads in reordered building.

The Group enthusiastically agreed to propose to the PCC that they enter Phase 2, subject to agreement of the costs fitting the PCC's budget.

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]