

All Saints Forward: Phase 1 ends with great success and a £20,000 boost!

The public meeting on Saturday 13 February about the Future of All Saints' Church, Winterton, was extremely successful. As if that were not enough, days later a benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated £20,000 to church funds 'to help the project move forward' to the next stage.

The All Saints Forward Core Group was joined by members of the congregation and the wider community for the all day public meeting held in Trinity Methodist Church. Robin Shawyer, Chair of the Core Group welcomed those present and gave the background to the All Saints Forward project since it started in late 2008. He introduced the project facilitator, Alastair Simmons of TASKSCAPE ASSOCIATES Ltd, who led the day's proceedings. Brian Foxley, the project architect, gave a fascinating presentation of his design concepts for the building. These options were based on our Statements of Purpose agreed in 2009 and, while conserving the mediaeval fabric of the building, included, 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. Discussion groups then sought clarification and raised some concerns. But there was overwhelmingly positive feedback about these concepts and much enthusiasm in evidence.

After the lunch break Brian responded to many of the points raised by the groups and then Alastair led the meeting to consider the 'next steps' and 'how to achieve the end result'. He explained that a host of other things needed to run alongside the design planning. These included 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; and a consideration whether there are any direct income streams possible to defray annual overheads in the reordered building. Finally Robin Shawyer stated that additional volunteers were needed to join the Core Group if all these tasks were to be tackled in the next few months. Several of those present agreed to help.

The meeting effectively marked the end of Phase 1 of the All Saints Forward project. The architect's plans prepared for this meeting are now on view in the church. A copy, with brief explanation, is also on the website at <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/> It must be remembered that these plans are no more than ideas for discussion at this stage. There is much work yet to be done. Phase 2 is now being planned and will start shortly.

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]