

All Saints Forward – another update

The Core Group met again on March 7th to reconsider some key aspects of our plans with our architect, Brian Foxley. This was necessary before our application was sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund as some issues had arisen following our consultation with the diocese.

The Core Group had invited the Lincoln Diocesan Advisory Committee [DAC] to visit All Saints on 28th January so that they could comment on our architect's outline ideas for re-ordering the church. This Committee includes experts on the fabric and they can indicate what changes are likely to be approved and what is all but impossible. The meeting was very positive indeed and those present from All Saints were much encouraged. The DAC agreed in outline with most aspects of our plans. There were, however, two key areas where the DAC gave us clear directions. Firstly, they told us that it would not be possible to build a new kitchen inside our old stone building for reasons of food safety standards. Any new kitchen would have to be provided with sealed walls and ceiling. In other words, this would have to be part of any new extension outside the north porch. Secondly, they indicated that improving access to the higher levels in the tower could only be achieved by installing a new, narrow staircase inside the tower. It would not be possible to install either a spiral staircase or an external stair with access from the nave through the tower wall. The spiral staircase would not give our bell-ringers enough room and the tower wall could not be pierced as it is of such huge historic significance [as shown by the article in last month's magazine].

Our architect has reconsidered these points and presented fresh proposals in line with the DAC advice.. At the Core Group meeting in March several key decisions were made. The group considered the latest Food Safety Standards information and re-affirmed that the vision for the future of All Saints did require a full kitchen and not just a servery and this thus necessitated a new kitchen extension outside the north porch.

In view of the historic significance of the All Saints' tower, our architect's proposal is now to enhance the ground floor chamber [in line with the story of the Early Romanesque Tower] and thus create a new floor for the ringing chamber at first floor level. To access this a narrow staircase will need to be created around the inside walls of the tower. A further similar stair will lead from the new ringing chamber up to the existing clock chamber. Concerns were expressed about this proposal on behalf of the bell-ringers with a desire that ringing remains located on the ground floor. There was much discussion about this but in the end the group decided by a large majority in favour of the principle of using the ground floor space to recreate the original early Romanesque chamber for heritage display and provide a new chamber for bell-ringers at first floor level.

The existing plans for the nave, aisles and transepts remained unchanged. The current Parish Room would stay as a meeting room for any purpose, including heritage study and archive storage. The current Choir Vestry area would house two toilets with a small room for meetings and vestry use.

The group now expects that our pre-application enquiry will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by mid-March.

There is full information about all the ideas for re-ordering All Saints 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]