

All Saints' Church restoration needs your help

All Saints Church at Winterton is appealing now for £21,000 towards the restoration and improvement of the church.

Winterton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has developed a vision based on hours of research and discussion. The plan will maintain the church as a place of worship with repairs to the roof and include major improvements to create flexible community space with a commercial kitchen, new heating, seating, lighting and sound systems. Heritage display areas and digital media will tell the rich story of Winterton. There will be specific activities for schools and young people with a lunch club for the elderly.

All Saints Winterton is a Grade I listed building and the plans will respect its heritage as well as enabling a wider range of uses to bring the community together, as churches often did in the past.

This huge project is being overseen by the All Saints Forward core group. The group has taken advice throughout the process and appointed an architect experienced in church conservation. The consultation process has been transparent, with both the Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations being consulted along with the town council and members of the wider community. Regular reports have been printed in the church magazine and on the website <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/>.

The vicar, Revd. Alice Nunn, said "We want to involve the community in the conservation and future use of the church. The building is ideal for concerts and other presentations, and we welcome everyone to join in these events."

The whole project will cost around £850k, with £640k requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund leaving a further £210k to be raised as match-funding. Many applications have been made to potential funders at a national and local level and several encouraging responses have been received. Over £138,000 has already been promised towards this match funding.

In 2010 the church was fortunate to receive two anonymous donations from Winterton residents specifically given to make sure this project could proceed. The donations [£25,000] were gift-aided so the actual total we received was over £32,000. Some of that money has already been spent on the project but most of it is now being put towards the match funding target.

The All Saints Forward group is now set to raise more of this match funding with an appeal which will demonstrate that the local community is firmly behind the project. £21,000 is needed and all residents and those with Winterton connections are asked to contribute what they can. Winterton has made such major investments in the past, most recently in 1903, when the church roof was raised and pinnacles added to the tower. Now is the turn of the present generation!

Donations of any amount are most welcome. If taxpayers Gift Aid their donations, an extra 25p for every pound can be raised from the government. If you can please use the form included here to make your donation.

Anyone who would like to be involved either by donating money to the appeal or by helping to organise events to raise the cash is asked to contact Robin Shawyer. The recent Open Gardens of Winterton event on Sunday 22 July raised over £2,000 for this appeal.

For more information contact Robin Shawyer on 01724 734285.