

All Saints' Church to close for repairs and refurbishment in 2014

All Saints' Church will close on 1st January 2014 and will remain closed for the rest of the year. This will allow the huge amount of building work to be completed as quickly as possible. Arrangements for weekly church services and wedding, baptisms and funerals are noted elsewhere in this edition.

Plans are being made to empty the church in the first half of January 2014. Professional storage will be needed for all the moveable contents which are to be retained. They cannot stay in the church as the floor in the nave/aisles/transepts will be lifted so that the archaeologist can check the surface layers beneath the paving and pew platforms. At the time of writing the PCC still has to decide which items, including pew benches, to retain and which will be sold off and at what price. All this will be clarified in the next few weeks.

The latest design drawings are currently on display in the church and on the church website at <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/winterton/>. The final consents and permissions are now being sought from the diocese and planning authorities. The main contractor will be appointed in the next few weeks and is expected to move on site by early February. The work will include roof, masonry and window repairs; a new level floor with underfloor heating; new lighting, sound and security systems; a small extension outside the North Porch for three new toilets and a small kitchen with full catering equipment; new high quality chairs/benches and tables with storage cupboards; and creation of new heritage displays and storage for the many archives and artefacts. A key feature in this will be the Tower which was built around 1080 and shows many original features which tell the story about why it was built. A recent addition to the plan, if extra grant funding can be obtained, is to include modern stained glass in the small west window above the Tower door.

During the works there will be days when the site can be viewed by those interested in, for example, the archaeological dig and the construction of the new extension with dry stone walling similar to that in the Tower.

A great deal of conservation work is also involved covering the paper archives, pipe organ, oil painting and old reredos screen, 1593 altar, internal wall monuments, medieval stone fragments, medieval churchyard cross stump, Victorian bier and velvet pall [which will return to the church for display after a long absence], medieval door ironwork; South Transept gable window and tower clock face. It is planned that conservation work to the Town War Memorial will be included.

The full cost of this major project is estimated at just over £1m. A grant of over £748,000 has been obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund with the remainder provided by eighteen other funders. Full details of these grants are listed on the church website.

Once the church reopens in 2015 [or earlier if we are lucky!], there will be a programme of activities to make use of the new facilities. The space offered in the refurbished building will be available for a much wider range of community uses. This entire project follows extensive community consultations which started in 2009.

If you would like more information about this project please contact Robin Shawyer at 734285 or rdshawyer@gmail.com

Will you do any Christmas shopping on-line?

All Saints' Church will face a very difficult year financially in 2014 while the church is shut. This has got nothing to do with the cost of the repair/refurbishment project but relates to the normal annual budget for running costs. We still have to contribute to the cost of our vicar, insurance and many other things which will not stop when we have no church building. In recent years a huge amount of fund-raising activity has been held in the church. This cannot happen when the church is shut! So the church council will need to rely on alternative types of fund-raising which do not require the church premises. One way in which any interested person in our community can help is to do any on-line Christmas shopping using the All Saints page at the 'easy fundraising' website. This allows users to get the usual on-line prices but the retailers donate a percentage of the sale price to All Saints funds. You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally but first sign up at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ascwinterton> and then use this page to navigate to the retailer. If you or anyone in your family can help us in this way we will be most grateful..

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