

# PROJECT INSPIRE

- ◆ **Conserving our heritage**
  - ◆ **Making bold improvements**
  - ◆ **Creating welcoming spaces**
  - ◆ **Reducing our carbon footprint**

## **Outline proposals progressing well**

Work to develop the detail of the proposals has continued apace over the winter to the extent that in March an informal submission was made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC considered the designs to be “well thought through and sensitively handled” and has clearly supported the proposals. There are several issues of detail to resolve but the principles behind the reordering are “solid and carry weight”.

Our architects, Chedburn Codd Conservation Architects, have developed a design to include all facilities in our Option 4 within the existing church building. Their drawings clearly demonstrate that objectives will be met and a transformation achieved whilst protecting the historical features of the church and, importantly, creating a welcoming place of worship.

## **Timeline**

It is regrettable but inevitable that our plans will be set back by the current Covid-19 impact. However, the PCC has set a date (subject to the national position at the time) for formal consultation with parishioners – Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 19.00 in church; please add this to your diary. In November, output from this round of consultation will be presented to the PCC and, after any modifications to our proposals, a formal petition for a faculty will be made by the PCC to the DAC early in 2021.

## **Archaeological investigations**

The Restoration and Reordering Project Group (RRPG) again has sought archaeological advice from Chiz Harwood of Urban Archaeology, a leading specialist in

aspects of archaeology pertaining to our project. He has prepared a report on the impact of our proposals on the church and associated mitigation measures which have helped to inform our Statement of Significance which is a critical element of our submission to the DAC.

More recently, we have completed an investigation of three ledger stones to confirm their thickness, bedding and the feasibility of moving them as part of the new raised floor proposal. This work is indicative of the checks and preparatory work undertaken now that will ensure greater confidence of acceptance of the overall project by bodies such as the DAC.



*(Archaeologist at work checking floor composition)*

## **Shelley's Walk**

One tricky aspect that is close to resolution is the matter of access to the north porch via Shelley's Walk. The cobbled path is deemed to be of some historical interest so the project group and architect examined options to meet current disability access expectations (entailing 'reasonable adjustments') yet preserving the character of this path. Moreover,

the path sees a heavy footfall daily so improvements for pedestrians are long overdue. As the path comes within the jurisdiction of Gloucestershire Highways (and their Public Rights of Way team), GCC will be able to repair the path in consultation with Cotswold District Council and the DAC to enable improved pedestrian and wheelchair access. The specific design will form part of the submission to the DAC.



*(The north porch- the proposed main entrance)*

### Eco-church and heating

In keeping with international trends, the Church of England is moving towards a goal of zero carbon by 2030. Clearly, this is a challenge for a C15 building where draughts form part of the necessary air flow to disperse moisture, for example. Some benefits will be gained by improving floor insulation and reducing draughts by installing effective internal doors; restoration of the south door will include a better seal.

Other technology-based ideas compatible with this historic building are being explored too. A move to electricity sourced from renewables is being studied. Options for evaluation include provision of some photo-voltaic (PV) cells on the south aisle roof (completely out of sight), investigation of a ground source heat pump and purchase of 'green' energy from the national grid. Many churches successfully have exploited these options already so the RPPG can have confidence that a suitable choice will be made.



*(An example of PV cells – Melbourne, Derbyshire)*

## Timeline of Project Inspire

2020/21	Activity
March	Draft proposals submitted to the DAC for its comment.
October	Consultation with parishioners, the community and statutory consultees.
November	End of consultation.
December	Evaluation of responses to the consultation and then reporting results to the PCC.
January	PCC meeting to approve reordering scheme
March	DAC meeting for scheme to be considered formally.
The above dates are approximate and timings are all dependent on any Covid-19 restrictions.	

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