

Prayer Breakfast 11th June 2022 – 9am to 11am

Present: DH, MD, JM, RH, FS, JA, AMB, GS, PG, JL, RP, JP, MD, SD, MA, PA, SM, NW

Principles outlined in the discussion

- 1) **Welcome so important**, as illustrated by a) including church and non-church people at the Jubilee party outside the tower, and b) the child who wanted to come into the Church, and brought her mother in, when the Church was open during the morning. 'This is what it is all about – mission.' Church is not our church but everyone's. Quotation from a sign outside another church: 'Welcome to your Church'
- 2) **Concentrate on reordering the inside of the Church**. This is where the chief need lies. Enhancing the Church's flexibility for worship and community events is key
- 3) **Two contrasting principles**
 - A) **Aim big** - go for the biggest, most ambitious possible plan and then retreat from it, if it becomes impossible. E.g., building on an entrance foyer outside the tower with toilets and kitchen as a big bold plan.
 - B) **Progress by stages** - work up to the final overall reordering in stages, and don't take steps that paint us into corner at any stage. (See below)

A possible consensus emerging

- 1) **Think big and think imaginatively**. For example, reorienting the direction we face during a service and/or having a service with a semicircular of chairs around the altar table
- 2) **Stage 1 - Remove all the nave pews**, and do so early on in the project and replace with stackable chairs
- 3) **Stage 2 - There needs to be a toilet in church**, this along with a servery could be stage two. Then it will become clear if we need more seating, e.g., with mezzanine floor/balcony.

Developing consensus will be helpful to the District Church Council who will be the final decision makers.

Ideas suggested by individuals and discussed by the group

- 1) **Please do something to upgrade the porch** it's been talked about since we came to the Church in 1975!
- 2) **Have two sets of glass doors at the tower entrance** to create a view into the church and also a weather lobby
- 3) **Building a foyer onto the Church outside the tower** has obvious functional appeal, but the cost and finding a suitable appearance acceptable to the planning authorities is more problematic
- 4) **Remove the stone screen between the tower and nave**, to open up the church entrance
- 5) **A room within the tower space above the entrance** will create a tunnel underneath it
- 6) **Try to open up the chancel space by removing the pews**. Buildings reflect theology, and the east end altar far from the congregation is not the modern way in which the priest/service leader is closer to the people; so hence the chancel is little used at present. The chancel could a be small intimate space for small services. This would then require a permanent access ramp to the dais

- 7) **Just because the dais has been completed recently** don't fail to consider removing it as part of the project
- 8) **Choose our battles**, adding a foyer outside the tower will be a big battle with planning authorities, likewise taking out the chancel pews, because of their historical significance
- 9) **What about painting the ceiling a lighter colour?**
- 10) **Conceptual (3D) drawings** of what it will look like - will help
- 11) **Outside the Church:** We must join in the improvements to this end of the High Street, and the possible relandscaping of the churchyard.

Comments from people about motivation

- 1) This reordering change is driven by the need
- 2) I am not someone who likes change, but I have changed my opinion - we have got to face the future
- 3) Making the Church child friendly is important.

Discussion events about reordering - are during Sunday services on 3rd July and on Tuesday 5th July at 7.30pm in the Church building.