

# Reply from the PCC on the possible changes to the Church interior, as proposed by members of the community

The PCC would like to thank all those who have taken the time and trouble to provide ideas and suggestions and, hopefully, this document will provide some feedback and perhaps prompt more thoughts, as this consultation is not over. They are always welcome even if not complimentary. Without your comments and thoughts, we can only do what we think is best. We do want to make the building fit in with, and be part of, the village again

We would also thank all those people who make regular contributions towards the upkeep of the Church (even if they don't attend the services) and would say that without their help and financial assistance the building would be in a much worse condition than it is.

## Delivery

This document is being delivered to virtually every household in the village (if we have missed anybody our apologies). The document will also be available on the Village Website but, as not all members of the village have access to a computer, we felt it sensible to ensure that all households have a copy. If you wish to make comment or have further thoughts, please contact one of the PCC members mentioned below or email to [j.mopett@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mopett@btinternet.com).

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We have the names of those who responded in all but one case but feel it is inappropriate to include their names. There were 23 replies, including 1 cheque (despite stating we were not asking for money) and 1 anonymous. Rather low in relation to the size of the village but better than we had hoped, bearing in mind we do have several holiday homes in the village. Also, in at least one case, the reply covered 2 or more households

## Thoughts

We would not say that any of these ideas & comments are complete, just thoughts or awaiting more details

- 1. Push Bike rack** – Enquiries have shown that the piece of land outside the Church gate would be suitable but, as yet we do not know who owns this. Does anybody know?
- 2. Phone Mast** – We have had a reply from a consultant and from our MP and will be providing some more information for the Shared Rural Network. We have to wait for the networks to decide to expand their network to cover us.
- 3. Exhibition space, removal or change the angle of pews, information boards and similar** – This can only be provided by removal of some Pews, either at the rear of the church or down one side – this could be either or both. The extra space gained could be “populated” by chairs straight down or angled if needed, which would allow the exhibition boards to be put up. These could be used for permanent information, audio visual & long term displays of art etc. and disabled turning access, as well as seating. The loss of the pews must be weighed against the fact that some were individually purchased and dedicated.
- 4. To improve and provide INCLUSIVE disabled space** – This can only really be achieved by reducing the size of one or more pews so that the wheelchair can be pushed into place as part of the main congregation with the Carer seated beside them. More research and discussion must be had on this issue.
- 5. Rewilding of part of the Church Yard, Bat surveys and Wildlife Cameras** – Advice would need to be taken to get the right benefits for all, with care being taken to stop the Church Yard looking scruffy and uncared for. Some sort of display being linked into the Church building showing the increased wildlife etc.
- 6. Solar Panels on Roof** – The “look” of the church building must not be spoilt and, whilst there is a relatively high initial cost for the panels and battery array, the electricity bill could reduce dramatically. More work is needed to illustrate the costs and benefits.

7. **Move the Font** – There is considerable cost involved and this perhaps outweighs the benefits of the space gained, especially as there are only ever 1 or 2 Christenings/Baptisms/Namings per year.
8. **Allow Youth Groups to use the church** – They have access to the building now if they want to use it for activities **appropriate** to the building.
9. **Have more Concerts/Open Mic nights** – There is no reason why these cannot take place provided that they are **appropriate** and beneficial to the Church building. Any problems can then be sorted for each event.
10. **Sunday Teas** – “Staff” issues and probable clash with the Tearoom and the Pub would prevent a regular event but occasional special events would probably be acceptable to all.
11. **Provision of Drinking Water** – This is already available, maybe more visible signage is needed.
12. **Small Library** – The sale of books in the Church has shown this could work very well.
13. **Make use of the organ or leave it where it is** – This is an area that we must take advice from our Organist. We understand, however, that the organ is in an ideal location and should not be moved.
14. **Move the Lectern** – The lectern is free standing and can be moved out of the way quite easily
15. **Clean the Paintings** – This is an area that has been pointed out a few times. However, whilst it is a fairly low priority, it must be looked at in the near future.
16. **Storage of the Village Archive** – As the Church is open all day this may cause a problem with security of the documents, and it may be better stored elsewhere. The display of selected parts of the Archive would enhance visitors and locals’ knowledge.
17. **Sort out the Heating, Clear the Bell Tower, Reduce the Altar “Stuff”** –These are items that are being discussed by the PCC and will be dealt with by the Church wardens and the PCC
18. **Tap and go credit card machine.** – As there is no internet or mobile connection now, this is an area that cannot be improved for the short term.
19. **Sort out the Lighting** – This is an area that is being looked at NOW as part of the current round of repairs.

## Conclusion

We would like to thank all those members of the parish who have shown sufficient interest and those who have taken the time to visit the Church to check on how their thoughts would impact or benefit the building before replying to the letter requesting ideas. Whilst it is a building that is managed by the Church of England it is a building for **ALL** and should be treated as such for the **many, not just the few**.

This consultation has shown that there is an interest in the building and as such we should try to keep it going for the benefit of all. At no time has anybody said to us “Pull it down! Sell it off! Make it a house! Get rid of the white elephant!”

Needless to say the answers shown above are not exhaustive. More work is needed on all of them to develop the simple idea or comment into a workable solution. Whatever the solution it must **work** for the **community** and still ensure that the building has the basic usage that it was built for – that of **worship**, a place of **quiet contemplation**, a place of **renewal**, a place of **information** and, most of all, a place of **peace**.

We are sure there are more ideas out there so please let us know so we can investigate to see if they could work. All of this will help in the future of the church building and assist the PCC in making decisions that will ultimately affect the future of the building and its availability for future generations.

**The big question is: DO WE WANT THE BUILDING?**

**We think the answer is YES**

**With YOUR help we can make it part of the Community again**