



starbeck welcome

Building for The future

Building Project – Update from the PCC, April 2012

As leaders of the church we aim to provide encouraging, inspiring and visionary leadership, matched with prudence and responsibility. It is on this background that we met on 17th April to consider the building project. We have been very grateful for all the support we have received from you and your prayers, which have added to our own.

We have over the last few months been showing you plans that had been coloured into three parts. The “green” part was to create a new entrance from the High Street with good access, the “red” part a new “welcome” area with kitchen facility and toilets and the “blue” part was an extended narthex with storage and toilets. We had been encouraging you to raise funds to support all of that work but had reached the point where we needed to decide whether to proceed with all of it as had been shown to you in the plans, or just certain parts of those plans.

We decided to proceed with the “green” and “red” parts, so the new entrance and new “welcome” area, and not to do the “blue” extended narthex. Our decision was reached on three grounds:

1. We believe that the main vision was to be more welcoming to our community, enabling us to look out and reach out and draw people in. Thus the main aim of what was proposed was to have a much more open, light and welcoming entrance that was more easily accessible to all and anyone, supported by the new “welcome” area where people could arrive and meet in a more relaxed way and yet still be part of church. This new space will also be a high quality meeting space fit for possible use by both by community and church groups. We believe that both the new entrance and welcome area are essential to meet the vision and aim.
2. A new narthex area could be a slightly more formal space available to the community but we took the view that it was more about providing something for ourselves. It was a desirable aspect of the plans but not essential to the main vision and aim.
3. We have heard the concerns of those we lead regarding the difficulty of trying to raise large sums of money, in difficult economic times, and the wisdom of spending such large sums of money on a church building project at all. For this reason we have decided to ask you to support just what we see as the heart of the project.

Our target now is to start building in September. To do that, as a charity and part of the Church of England, we must either have the funds in place or have a secure source of funds before we can sign contracts. So far we have raised or had pledged a tremendous total of nearly £155,000. So that makes another £500,000 to go. A chunk of this we anticipate will come from grant making bodies/trusts and we are looking at other sources of funds too, but we need substantially to pay for this project ourselves.

If you have already given or pledged money, thank you very much! You may have no money to give: if you are already involved in fundraising and praying, thank you very much! If you have not yet involved yourself then, please guys, get behind us on this, do your bit with us!

Next week (May 4th – 6th) some of us will be at Sneaton castle. Last time we were there Mark Carey was talking to us about how our journey of faith as a church is like a bus journey and how we can individually get on or off the bus. The PCC are already, like children, excitedly on the bus making the journey, and there are quite a few other people with us. We know where the bus is going and we can't wait to get there. But it's a really user-friendly bus and you can stick out your hand and stop it at any time to get on. If you're not on the bus with us, come on, get on board!

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