

Redevelopment Plans – Issue 2

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Reordering update We've had a visit now from the church planning authorities (the 'Diocesan Advisory Committee' or 'DAC') and are beginning to act on their recommendations to fine tune our plans before we seek formal planning consent (called a 'Faculty').

As with any church building changes, we have to provide good reasons and evidence that our 'need' to make these changes is greater than the historical 'significance' of the items in question. So we are in the process of preparing a detailed 'Statement of Need' and 'Statement of Significance'.

The good thing about this is that it forces us to be sure that what we are requesting is really what we believe we need. It also makes us consider a whole range of alternative options which we may not have thought of. The bad thing is that this costs a lot of money.

We have to employ specialist furniture historians; we need further survey drawings & a Quantity Surveyor to cost the different aspects of the project. We need to seek the views of the local authority, the Victorian Society and English Heritage. Together with revised plans and collating all of this by the architect, it may cost us at least a shocking £15000 to get the plans ready for approval – and that may not be complete until midway through 2016!

Before you throw up your hands in dismay, it appears this isn't an unusual amount or timescale for plans of this extent, and there is no other way to go about it.

In the meantime we are hoping to make some improvements before the whole scheme is finished. We plan to invest legacy money on a new audio visual system, replacing worn out speakers and other equipment. And you may find a few of the pews at the back of church are temporarily removed (with the Archdeacon's permission!) as we create a larger space to circulate in at the back of church.

So, do please keep praying for this great project to enable St Matthias to be more welcoming and also ready for the next generation of worshipers. We will need substantially more money in due course and we need more people to help run the whole project and look into where any grant monies may come from. So please pray about what your own involvement could be too.

Thank you, in Christ, John