

## **Redevelopment Plans – Issue 4**

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We are making progress – but it is inevitably slow!

Shortly after Easter we received a report that we had had to commission about the history of the furniture of the church. This fascinating document helped us to assess the relative historical and social significance of the wooden furnishings that we are considering altering in some way, from the west screen to the pews and choir stalls. Armed with this fresh information (and having visited six local churches who have recently been re-ordered) the PCC have adapted the draft plans accordingly. We hope to submit a revised scheme to the ‘Diocesan Advisory Committee’ for their comments at their July 2016 meeting ahead of sending this out to other public bodies – i.e. the Local Authority, Victorian Society, Historic England (previously English Heritage). We’ll also of course, show the church family as soon as it is sensible to do so!

It may feel frustrating that we are not sharing the draft plans more widely yet, but we hope you will understand that until we have gained reasonable outline support from the Diocesan planners it would be a very confusing exercise. We would simply waste time discussing changes that we then find we are not going to be able to make! Suffice it to say, the plans remain along the lines of those we have shared already, and that there is a reassuringly complete unanimity on the PCC so far over the main areas of redevelopment we believe God is calling us to undertake.

Please keep praying about the whole process – including the funding of it – as we seek to make St Matthias church a suitable (and beautiful) building for worship for the next generation. Thank you.

*John B*