

5. IMPROVE OUR BUILDING

Objective- to optimise our church building for mission and worship

Successes to date,

- Complete roof and stonework repairs
- Install heaters in Parish room
- Install and optimise our new sound system

Many thanks are due, especially to Pat, Joanne, Andre and many others who contributed to achieving these successes. John Harding is currently looking into how we can extend the sound system into the Parish Room to cover meetings. Thank you John.

In tandem with these activities a working group led by John Stevenson has consulted with our architect to look at how we might use our church space in future. Several interesting proposals were put forward on how we might adapt our layout to provide extra kitchen space, meeting rooms, storage and a more user friendly layout. At this stage the PCC felt that it would be better to concentrate on a few immediate issues and solve these before we entered a major project. However, this forward view has been essential to ensure that any work we undertake in the immediate future does not preclude or impede what we can do in future. We thank John and his team in carrying out this work for us.

First of the immediate issues being addressed is the “Messy Corner”. After a lot of work, especially by Pat, this work is moving forward. The old cast iron radiator has been removed to make room for the new storage cupboards. However, when our architect carried out his recent survey of our building he advised urgent repairs are needed to the two West End stained glass windows to prevent their collapse. So this repair work is being put in hand before we can proceed in this area. It is worth noting that the Friends of All Saints have committed to providing the funds needed to repair the 2 windows and provide the new storage cupboards.

The second immediate issue being addressed is the provision of a new electrical cable to the rear of church to strengthen the electricity supply to this area. We expect this work to be completed shortly. Then the organ will not trip out when the water heater is switched on!

The third issue being investigated is how we can improve the heating in church. Pat, John and I have visited a church with new electric panel heating in the pews (like the one being trialled). However, on our visit, we felt that on a cold day the relative improvement was small so we are not convinced of the cost benefit of this system. As a result we are going to undertake further investigation and also check possible cable routes under the floor which will be needed to feed a new pew-based heating system.