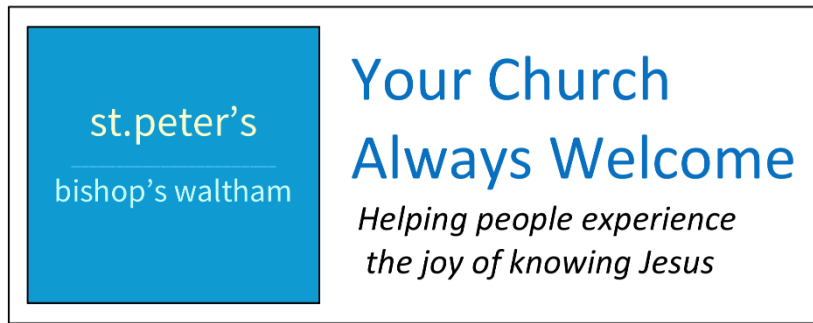


St Peter's – Re-Imagining and Re-Ordering (Initial Temporary Phase)



Dear St Peter's

As I hope you are already aware, last year we applied for a Faculty (church planning permission) to re-imagine and re-arrange three areas of our church.

As a reminder, please see below our previous communication which came out in the weekly e-mail in December, was mentioned in the notices and posted on the church door.

Permission has now been granted in principle, subject to the submission of detail on what we are going to do in terms of work e.g., flooring, furniture, seating and, health and safety measures.

The permission we now have will provide for the following:

North Aisle – Family, Comfortable Seating and Refreshment Areas

- to create a bigger 'family area' so that families, parents and children can be included better on Sundays and in the week e.g., involvement and line of sight
- to create a comfortable seating area for those who need that and to be included more, rather than having to sit right at the back under the gallery
- to create more room, in addition to under the gallery, in which pre and post service fellowship and refreshments can take place

The current proposal is to create an open area with some flexible furniture and seating with the chairs we already have. We propose to have a trial period until we are happy with the arrangement.

North-West Nave (rear two pews) – Refreshment and Welcome Area

- to create a new and dedicated serving area for refreshments
- to create a welcome area for welcoming and leaflets

The current proposal is to leave the 2 pews and create a 'table top/coffee bar' arrangement. We are aware that we need think through carefully how this will work for our refreshments teams and us.

South Aisle – Music and Storage Area

- to create an extended music area for the choir and children/young people
- to create better storage

The current proposal is to leave the pews for the moment until we need the space there.

All this work is for the benefit of our church and community and its needs in the next 2-3 years.

Looking at the bigger and longer term picture, we hope to begin over the next year to have a church family conversation for what we might do for the whole church in the longer term.

For this initial temporary stage, we would very much like to present to you our general proposals and to hear your thoughts and views.

Our proposal is to keep the areas flexible to see what works and is good.

To hear more and to give an opportunity for discussion and ideas we do hope you can come to one of two meetings in church:

Sunday 17th 4pm

Monday 18th 7:30pm

At the meeting there will be some of the congregation from Blessed Mary who have just very successfully 're-imagined and re-ordered' their nave and aisles with an extended family area, new seating, band/choir area and lady chapel. This has successfully balanced the historic/classical look of the building with the new layout, furniture and seating.

We do hope you can come along.

With thanks and prayers

Revd James – Rector

Liz Webb – Warden

Mandy Cawood – Warden

Paul Emmerson - Fabric



Communication in December 2022

As you will be aware from previous updates, there are a range of projects under consideration at both St Peter's and the Blessed Mary, and at St Peter's these include improving and enhancing the family and children's area as well as the coffee area.

The proposals have been developed over the past few months following discussions with members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), our youth workers Kate and Katie, the (Acting) Archdeacon of the Meon Rev Will Hughes (on behalf of the Diocese) and the Church Architect Julian Livingstone.

The following proposals have now been drawn up and approved by the PCC and have been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee who have considered these and recommended the granting of a Faculty (another word for "permission") by the Consistory Court for the work to be undertaken:

1. Improving and enhancing family and children's area This will involve removal of the remaining pews in the North Aisle to allow a bigger family and children and young people's area which will benefit the both the Church and the wide community. Families will feel more welcomed and valued in Services as there will be an area set aside just for them, with designated areas for the younger and older children. Children and young people will want to come in to the Church as they know that they will have a larger space to move around and in which to play, in a much more relaxed environment. Toys, soft play etc will be provided as well as other resources for children and families, in appropriate storage units. The area will be fitted out to provide comfortable and versatile seating (settees, chairs and tables etc) with the flexibility to accommodate the seating needs of those who may prefer not to sit on the pews and to meet the requirements of the Services which attract larger numbers. Other family events can be run from this area in the Church building which will encourage more people from the wider community to come in to the Church more often, as not all people are comfortable with coming in to the Church building itself. The final layout has yet to be determined but it will preserve the integrity of the Lady Chapel and the more comfortable seating may be attractive to those who are in the Chapel

2. Enlarged area for choir and musical related activities, including additional storage space This will involve the removal of the remaining pews in the South aisle to create a bigger area not only for the existing choir but also for a planned choir aimed specifically at children, younger people and the community generally. Following the move of the organ to this aisle, conditions are slightly cramped so the removal of the pews will facilitate a much needed rearrangement of the storage as well.

3. Enlarged area for sharing coffee and milling around generally The area under the gallery becomes very congested when sharing coffee, especially between the 9.00 am and 10.30 am Services on a Sunday, so the opportunity is being taken to reinstate the previously held permission to take out 2 of the back pews of the North Nave (although the original permission was to take out the back 3 pews). This will ease any congestion and improve the opportunity to share fellowship and although the final lay-out has yet to be agreed, it is envisaged that there will be an additional area serving coffee as well. The Diocese have not raised any initial objections but have asked the Church Architect to consider how best to resolve any potential trip hazards which might arise as the pew plinths are not being removed

It is hoped to undertake the physical removal of the pews ourselves but an outside contractor will be engaged if this is not feasible

The cost of implementing these proposals (initially estimated at £12,000) will be met primarily from legacy monies of £45,000 which have recently been received, of which just under £14,000 has so far been spent. Use of the legacy monies on a defined project such as this is considered very appropriate as it will help further the mission and outreach of St Peter's

A copy of the formal Notice regarding the application for permission to implement these proposals is posted on the external Church door and on the noticeboard in Church. A small pack of papers is also available in the Stables Parish Office for inspection, this comprises plans before and after pew removal, the Statement of Significance which was submitted as part of the application for the Faculty, a draft (not final) lay-out of the North aisle after pew removal and a copy of the Notification of Advice from the Diocese.

The above work is part of a bigger scheme for the coming few years to help us do what we do even better and welcome in new people to our church family. Over the course of 2023 we will let you know more and where we would very much appreciate your input and ideas.

If you have any queries, comments or thoughts please do let us know.

Paul Emmerson, Claire Alcock, Liz Webb and Revd James

