

the BIG
'OUR CHURCH'
Project

Playing our part in the ongoing story of St. Mildred's

1932 - 2017

Week-ending October 30th

This week on the BIG 'OUR CHURCH' Project we have taken some time to review all of your comments on the proposed colours. This has resulted in a revision of the proposed colours in the centre wall section - The new colour proposals will be on display for a few more weeks, so please take the time to let us know your thoughts and comments via the post-it notes or directly to myself or one of the team.

Also in the week our Architects proposed a solution to the Boiler Room flooding solution (which involves improving the drainage around the Boiler Room following the drainage survey), and we continued the work on refining our Audio-Visual requirements with potential suppliers. Finally we completed a review of our updated project budget now we have received a few more quotes for the intended work.

Week-ending October 23rd

This week on the BIG 'OUR CHURCH' Project we have received a number of designs and reports following work over the last few weeks. The Asbestos and Drainage Surveys are being reviewed for actions we need to take, and the Acoustics report has made some recommendations that will improve the intelligibility of the spoken word, without a significant impact to the musical qualities of the building. Our Architects also continue to respond to comments raised on the proposed design.

We have received some more generous donations, and we are getting closer to our target of £70k. The External fundraising has also commenced following completion of the Community Survey report.

I am incredibly grateful for all of your comments on the colour proposals so far. Based on them, we will be refining the proposed colours in the next week or so, so please keep them coming via the post-it notes or directly to a member of the team – good and bad!

Week-ending October 9th

OUR GENEROSITY UPDATE

There has been a massive response from the people of St Mildred's

We have received cash/pledges of over £40,000 towards the "BIG OUR CHURCH PROJECT".

In addition we have received individual commitments of a further £10,000, taking OUR total to over £50,000.

We are confident that following the Harvest Festival re-launch and with money from the British Legion concert and our Christmas Market on 3rd December.

The money raised, together with those from Church funds, means that we have raised over 40% of the cost of the project so far!

Thank you for your ongoing generous support

The National Lottery, funded the community survey after reviewing the project. Their support provides strong evidence that the Big OUR CHURCH project is fulfilling a local need.

Community Survey – "Thank You"

A total of 260 people were interviewed, providing a representative sample across Addiscombe. Approximately half did NOT attend services at St Mildred's.

The key points were:

91% of people approved of plans to complete the works scheduled. As a consequence, church buildings will be more adaptable for a range of community activities.

86% of people said that they would be more likely to use the facilities once the works had been completed.

They also said:

The best things about living in Addiscombe were:

- Strong sense of community/friendly people.
- Green spaces
- Transport facilities

...but the worst things about the area were:

- Lack of Social Facilities
- Litter/Noise Crime/Fear of Crime

The survey provides very strong evidence of “local-need”. This is critical as we seek to secure third party financial support.

External Fundraising

Given both the:

- Generous financial support from St Mildred’s congregation.
- Completion of the community survey

We are able to demonstrate strong local demand for the project. St Mildred’s PCC will now approach third-parties to support the project during the next 6 months. The bodies approached will include Environmental Group’s, Family Trusts and Church Foundations. We aim to raise a total of £200,000 from these bodies. Please continue to pray for the success of our applications, as we seek to further God’s work in our community.

OUR DESIGN PROPOSALS

We have been working hard with our architects and consultants to produce designs for new lighting/electrics, colour scheme, wooden platform and moveable choir stalls. This is all exciting business and will make possible an inspirational and sustainable future for St. Mildred’s. We are planning by Christmas to have made a formal application to carry out the works in 2017.

Please pray for Matt Webb and his team who have consulted widely to bring us to this important moment.

Lighting plans: Upon appointing our lighting consultant, we took time to define our lighting requirements. This included visits to other churches with different styles of lighting. Our consultants have now produced a design that is flexible enough to satisfy the many different uses of the church (including church in the

round, concerts and services of particular importance), and is very simple to operate with extremely low running costs. The pendants will be removed to aid the scheme's flexibility, and also, to take the church back to the architect's original vision; emphasising the grandeur of this marvellous building.

Colour schemes: We have narrowed it down to a set of 3 schemes: light 'stone' whites, darker stone shades and a scheme with dusky blues and greys. We will be using the next few months to test shades on walls in situ so a final choice can be made that everyone will enjoy.

Stage area: After many conversations about how we use the church currently, and what we want to use it for in the future, we have worked with our architects to design, and then refine a plan for our new stage area. We have ensured that it will work for our Sunday services, concerts and other occasions, focusing particular on accessibility. The stage will be a wooden construction, with a solid wood surface that is sympathetic to the remaining church woodwork, and the organ in particular.

Choir stalls: We are currently in discussions with suppliers about replacing our choir stalls with something that is lightweight and moveable, flexible enough to suit the many positions possible with the new stage, and comfortable for the choir. We are paying special attention to ensure that the music stands can be used from our shortest to tallest choristers.

Week-ending October 9th

This week on the BIG 'OUR CHURCH' Project we completed a CCTV drainage survey of the church, and met with another furniture supplier to discuss replacement of the existing Choir Pews. Full results of the drainage survey are awaited, but it looks like the survey might be able to identify the cause of our boiler room flooding. We also received news of some more very generous support, and reviewed some more comments on the architect's proposals. But the team spent most of the week preparing for the Harvest Festival – painting colour samples on the walls, preparing the updated displays and creating the slide show to demonstrate our Lighting Design. Please take the time over the coming weeks to consider the colour suggestions (and they are suggestions at this stage) and have a look at the updated display.

Week- ending October 2nd

This week on the BIG 'OUR CHURCH' Project we met with our external fundraisers to discuss the community survey results, and the plan for approaching our identified external funds from mid-October. We also finalised the updated display designs for the Harvest Festival re-launch, and responded to some architect's more detailed queries on the stage and vestries. We reviewed a number of audio visual (AV) suppliers quotes, and our recommendation will be passed to the PCC for approval so we can complete the new Electrical services design. On Monday, contractors were in church completing an asbestos survey and taking samples to ensure we are all safe when renovating the church - this involved yet another trip to the roof space which is starting to feel like a second home now! We are arranging a drainage survey for next week to help resolve the boiler room flooding, and another furniture supplier to visit us to discuss the new choir stalls. The design phase is progressing well, and it is exciting to see it all coming together.