



ROCK UPDATE FOR ALL SAINTS MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2018

This is an update on ROCK activity over the past six months and on where we see things headed over the next few months.

General

Following the extensive consultation in February and March 2018 when the most recent plans were presented, the PCC, at a special meeting in April 2018, agreed that:

- a) Further work should be done on the design to get it to planning permission stage
- b) The other necessary preparations for submitting proposals to B&NES and the Diocese should be made
- c) Work should be done on the fund-raising strategy
- d) Church members should be kept informed as much as possible

Design Work

2. Since February 2018, changes have been made to the internal layout of the scheme and to the external appearance of the extension; changes in the landscape plans have also been made. Some of those changes are in response to comments made during the consultation. All of these changes were presented in the mini-exhibition that was held in the church in October 2018. They were all explained in a booklet which is still available at the back of church or on the church website. Since October, one more change has been made and this is to the line of the pathway to the new entrance. The costs of the work have also been revised taking into account the reduced works to the landscape.

3. We have continued to find out about churches where similar projects have been undertaken eg Holy Trinity Bradford; Holy Trinity Cambridge (recently visited by Simon & Emma Brand who loved what has been done); and St Michael & All Angels Oxford.

Preparations for Planning Permission in 2018

4. Since April a series of reports has been commissioned, in order to inform the design process and because they are required as part of the planning application. These specialist reports include:
 - a) An ecology report
 - b) A revised arboricultural report
 - c) A report advising on the impact of the new building works on the existing church building and the churchyard
 - d) A report on the condition, significance of the churchyard memorials that will have to be moved and a report on how best to remove them
 - e) An audit of the accessibility issues in and around the church.
5. We have engaged a local planning consultant to help us on our approach to the council.
6. We have met with our two local councilors to explain the scheme to them.
7. We held a mini exhibition of the plans so that the wider community could see what we have in mind. We particularly targeted the nearest 130 houses. About 70 people came. The majority of comments made and left on slips of paper were positive.
8. We have consulted Historic England and the Bath Preservation Trust about the plans.
9. We have identified that the piece of land just outside the car park that we would like to expand into is owned by the Guinness Housing Trust but maintained by the Council.

Fund-raising Strategy

10. We engaged two fund-raising consultants to advise on our strategy and assist in its formation. As a result, we have recruited (so far) a number of high profile patrons who are: the Bishop of Bath & Wells, the Lord Lieutenant for Somerset, two Deputy Lieutenants for Somerset and Canon Patrick Whitworth. A feasibility report has been received. We are not proposing to retain fundraising consultants on an extended basis.

11. We have prepared and printed an attractive and professional Statement of Case that will be made available to potential donors and Trusts.
12. We have made preliminary inquiries to the Heritage Lottery Fund as to whether it might make a grant to the project. However the PCC has not yet decided if this would be the right course of action.
13. We have identified where we could secure loans to enable the project to start if (as is likely) not all the funding is available at the point of starting construction. We now know that we could secure large loans if necessary.
14. To date we have banked £363,000 for the ROCK Project. This is nearly two-thirds of the roughly £600,000 that was pledged in 2016. Virtually all of this was given by church members (Gift Aid included). **THANK YOU!** To date we have spent £127,000 (including VAT).
15. We have been researching some of the more well-known people who are buried or commemorated in the church and churchyard. These historical connections and the stories behind them could prove helpful in attracting grants as well as opening up the story of the church to a much wider audience.

Communication with Church Members

16. In April 2018, we published all the results of the 2018 February/March consultation, together with all the comments that had been received. Mark Searle also wrote an open letter to the congregation explaining the decision of the PCC to move to the next stage.
17. In October 2018, we published (a little late) responses to the main points that had been raised in the 2018 consultation. (FAQ 2).
18. The exhibition in 2018 October was available for church members over two Sundays and was also in the Church Centre for a week.
19. We are trying to remember to do very brief notes in the weekly newsletter. This is a much longer 'note'.
20. Each PCC meeting has a detailed report outlining ROCK activity since the last meeting and seeking authorisation for any actions that need PCC approval.

Forthcoming Activity

21. The priority now is to prepare all the necessary documentation required for the planning application, which we aim to submit before Christmas.
22. We are intending to invite a number of people within the congregation who have specific technical experience to contribute their knowledge and experience.
23. We hope to get some grant applications off in the near future.
24. We also hope to make a decision about whether or not to apply Heritage Lottery Funding in the near future.

How things change....



This is a sketch of the church in the middle of the nineteenth century. This is before the church was extended in 1893 by the addition of the two side transepts and the much longer chancel and sanctuary area. Notice too the railings around some of the monuments and memorials.