

*Good Day folks*

*In last week's village email I promised news of progress on the renovation in this edition. Richard Woolley, chair of the group organising the necessary refurbishment sends the attachment*

You will all appreciate that Covid-19 has hampered so many things. The church fundraising is no exception with many very promising events having to be put on hold, and of course the roof and general refurbishment progress has been made more difficult. We could take up pages detailing everything that has gone on by zoom and email. Richard Woolley's group is not only looking at the roof to decide upon priorities, design, specifications, tenders and permissions, but also other necessary improvements to make the building a popular venue for many different uses for the next 50 years - which it has to be to justify the expense. In particular they are looking at a new heating system, a small kitchen area known in those circles as a servery, and a toilet.

Heating is proving very interesting. Whatever system we install needs to be powered by electricity, so we can be low carbon or carbon neutral as soon as possible, this should also be a plus with grant funders and would be a part of our bid. On the one hand changing our Victorian radiators for new electric ones seems a plausible route, but investigations with other churches that have been through the process are persuading us this may not be the best answer. Many say because they work by convection they heat the roof and not the people, need to be on hours or days before an event to raise the temperature to a reasonable level, and thus are expensive to run. This is important if we think the building will be used intermittently for short periods - from church services to coffee mornings to organic vegetable growing classes for example. The alternative is some kind of instant heat, which really means infra-red. There are various forms, but those that give a red glow are by far the more suitable for a quick response and cheap heat as they give mostly instant radiant heat, thus warming the people not the air. The higher church authorities, who always have to approve such installations, have in the past been opposed to this red glow, but nationally many have now been approved and modern versions can often be disguised in lighting chandeliers. The C of E is getting up to date and have a strategy now to heat the people, not the air. We very much want to visit churches where they are fitted and see and feel for ourselves the results, but because of lockdown that will have to wait a few more weeks.

The servery and toilet area is an example of another area that has needed careful thought; where should they be situated? Partly constrained by where to put the drains to avoid graves, there are also other considerations. As a relative newcomer to all this, one aspect I had not really thought through is the need to keep the area just inside the door on the right, known as the remembrance area, a quiet area for reflection. As well as containing the font and a stone depiction of the last supper, it displays two great parish plaques with names of the departed, and others for victims of the two world wars. So it has been ruled out as a site for either loo or servery, with a likely position under the bell tower as current favourite.

So, whilst progress has been slow, it is happening and with thought. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, on whom we are relying for substantial funding has been closed for all but

covid related claims, but should be re-opening soon. I could go on further, but perhaps another day, I just wanted to assure you that a very capable team is in charge and all facets of the problem are being thought about.

With kind regards

*D. Ralph Metson*