



St Etheldreda, Guilsborough: Church Renovation Consultation on the Vision

St Etheldreda's Church in Guilsborough is in need of urgent improvement works. Thanks to a generous legacy and other monies, work has started on a comprehensive renovation and improvement of the church.

What has been achieved so far.

Urgent work has started on: repair of the church wall, external stone work repair on the church building, roof leaks, gutter and window repairs, initial work on the heating system, removing leylandii and trimming other trees in the churchyard, and renovation of the church bells.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) recognises that the church has been part of our wider community for almost a thousand years. **The PCC is fully committed to seeking the views of ALL the community, not just those who 'go to church'.** The PCC is the body that runs the church (and the wider mission and ministry) and its chair is the Revd Allison Twigg. The PCC is a different body from the Parish Council. Guidelines and advice are given to the PCC by Peterborough Diocese.

This first consultation is on the draft 'Vision'. The Vision, once agreed, will guide what future works are to be considered. Please note that there will be other consultations on exactly what specific improvements and changes may be made, but this will follow later, once the overall direction has been agreed.

Draft Vision

The renovation will deliver the following aim:

- 1. The renovation will first and foremost maintain and enhance the Church as a place of worship and a building of historical importance.**

The renovation will deliver the following objectives:

- 2. The church will be a welcoming place that is well-maintained, warm, bright, clean, attractive and is efficient to run.**
- 3. The church will better provide for the whole community, including being more accessible for all (e.g. families, the elderly, vulnerable, infirm, those with a disability etc).**
- 4. The renovation will allow for a wider range of activities attended by a wider range of people, by providing a more flexible and useable space to better provide for church and other appropriate events.**

Note: Other events for example might include concerts and exhibitions. Any events at the church are to be complementary to, and not compete with, other venues such as the pub or the village hall. Please note the current day-to-day income does not cover the running costs, and this is a major concern, so earning more income is essential.

- 5. The renovation will focus on capital works.**

Note: there is no choice on this particular objective as the legacy monies are legally required to be spent on physical works (capital works) not day-to-day running costs. An appropriate amount will be retained for future major works and emergencies (e.g. when the roof needs replacing) and for ongoing minor repairs (e.g. for ongoing repointing of the stone work).

- 6. Any proposed specific works will need to be affordable, deliverable, meet planning and legal requirements, as well as support the Vision as a whole.**

Note: This objective covers legal and practical requirements.