

April 2018



Dear All Saints Member,

THE ROCK Consultation and Where We Go From Here

Firstly we want to thank all of you who responded to the ROCK consultation on the latest proposals for renewing our church building and campus. That is much appreciated. When you read the booklet summarizing your responses, you will see that the overwhelming majority of responses were in favour of the proposals for transforming the interior. You will also see that there were large majorities in favour of the extension and the landscape proposals. That said, about one fifth of you are still not comfortable about the need for an extension or at least wonder if it could be smaller. The ROCK Team understands that the case for the extension has not convinced quite as many people as the case for the interior. The Team and the PCC are continuing to reflect on all the points raised and will be in active discussion with the planning authorities about this.

The PCC met for two hours on Monday 16 April to review the outcome of the consultation and to agree the next steps. It decided that for the rest of 2018, the following three work-streams should be pursued:

- A) The architects and other consultants should work towards producing a formal planning application for works inside and outside the church to be submitted to the Diocese and Bath & North East Somerset Council for their approval;
- B) Alongside that work-stream, the ROCK Team assisted by a Planning Consultant should engage and consult with our immediate neighbours and the wider community. This is partly about explaining what we hope to do but also about building the support of our neighbours and our community;
- C) A major piece of work should be undertaken to ascertain the practical feasibility of raising the sums of money involved and a start be made on seeking to secure external funding for the project.

When these three pieces of work are completed towards the end of the year, we should know whether or not we have been given planning permission by the Diocese and B&NES or if we have to make further modifications. We should also know how much external funding we have raised or are likely to raise. Only then will we come back to the church for further gifts and pledges. When all those things have been done, we will know what we are allowed to do and what we can afford to do. **Then and only then will final decisions be made about what we will actually commit to doing.** In the meantime, members of the ROCK Team are happy to meet with any individuals or groups for a discussion on any aspect of the project – so please ask if you would like such a meeting; there are likely to be one or two open meetings as well focusing on specific aspects such as the proposed extension and how the costs have been estimated.

As you can see this is a step-by-step process underpinned by prayer and attentive listening to one another. We hope you will be encouraged and reassured by all of this.

Mark Searle

Rector

Pippa Page

Churchwarden

Ben Stokes

Churchwarden