



More about the paddling swan! This is to bring you up to speed with the ROCK Project. If you have joined All Saints in the past year or so, you may not have completely picked up on the plans to (a) transform the interior of the church; (b) to create a new entrance, foyer, toilets, kitchen and meeting room (creche); and (c) make some improvements to the churchyard and carpark.

## SO WHAT'S HAPPENING ON PLANNING PERMISSION WITH THE COUNCIL?

As you know, we put in a very full planning application documentation in July 2019. This application only covers external changes to the building and the site. We expected a decision in October. However, Council officers asked for more information about projected usage, public benefit, parking arrangements and other matters. They also asked for a delay to the beginning of December.

At the end of November, we met with the Case Officer and the Highways Officer. It was a positive meeting in general, but they want further information and minor revisions to the scheme. Parking and traffic is a significant issue, so we have to commission a parking/traffic analysis. This will need to show that our plans will not cause an increase in on-street car parking or inconvenience to local residents. We also have to produce a revised lighting scheme which is more ecologically sensitive than the existing lighting in the churchyard and the one we produced in July. Finally, they asked the architects to make some minor adjustments to the external appearance of the addition to the church. We will do all of these things. Expect a survey on 15 December as to how you made your way to church.

The aim is to get this additional material to the Council just before Christmas but even so we have been told it will be 31 January before there will be a decision.

## AND WHAT ABOUT PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE DIOCESE?

Most of our energies to date have been focussed on the local authority who we see as the more 'challenging' of the two planning authorities. But in October we submitted the same plans that went to the Council to the Diocese and have received further feedback. Although we have not yet formally applied for permission (a 'faculty'), crucially the committee which recommends these matters said at its November meeting *'The extension to the north east corner is of single-story construction and is fairly traditional in form. It has been positioned and designed to minimise the impact on the setting of the Listed Building and it has achieved this successfully. On this basis the DAC raises no objection to the design, scale and positioning on the extension.'*

However, the Committee would like to see an 'options appraisal' showing why the additional facilities cannot be contained within the existing church. The Committee has also asked for much further detail on the furniture and furnishings, lighting and floor finishes etc that we are proposing for the church. These have to yet be decided so we need to crack on with that aspect.

## SO WHEN MIGHT WORK ACTUALLY START?

Well a few years ago, we coined the not very original phrase 20/20 vision hoping that we might at least have made a start on construction by the year 2020. That looks unlikely now but not impossible. These are the key tasks with provisional target dates:

2020			2020			2020			2020			2021		
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

————→ BATHNES PLANNING PERMISSION RECEIVED

←-----ROCK APPEAL TO CONGREGATION AND BEYOND-----→

————→ DIOCESE PLANNING PERMISSION RECEIVED

————→ PLANS READY TO GO TO TENDER

————→ WORK STARTS?

## **HOW ARE WE DOING ON MONEY FOR THE PROJECT?**

There is still a long way to go. We have only had one appeal to the church and that was June 2016. That produced gifts and pledges of around £600,000. We need around £3,000,000 to do everything in one go. We are planning another appeal to the church in the Spring of 2020 as well as going out to external funders. Be ready!

## **NOW PLEASE FOLLOW THE 4 F'S**

Please pray for:

- **FAVOUR** - with the decision makers in planning
- **FORTITUDE** - for the ROCK team
- **FAITH** - to increase
- **FUNDS** - funds to be given to bring it all into being