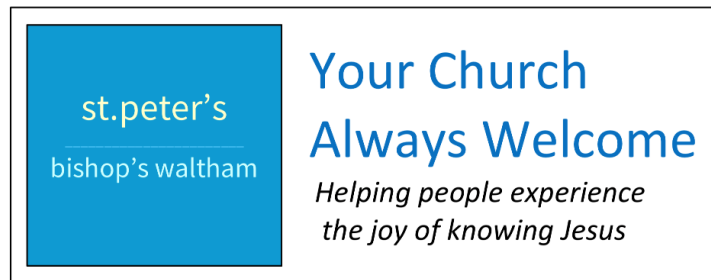


St Peter's – Re-Imagining and Re-Ordering (Stage 1 – Update October 2024)



Dear St Peter's

This time last year, you might remember that we applied for a faculty (church planning permission) to 're-imagine and re-arrange' some key areas to help improve our church for Sunday services and Midweek activities. As part of the process we had two meetings to hear your views about the proposals which were very helpful and helped us refine what was done.

The outline work proposed at the time is outlined below with more detailed aspects discussed and agreed by the PCC as we went along e.g., design of chairs and furniture, colour of the carpet and other items.

North Aisle – Family, Comfortable Seating and Refreshment Areas

- to create a bigger 'family area' so that families, parents and children can be included better on Sundays and in the week e.g., involvement and line of sight
- to create a comfortable seating area for those who need that and to be included more, rather than having to sit right at the back under the gallery
- to create more room, in addition to under the gallery, in which pre and post service fellowship and refreshments can take place

At the time the proposal was to create an open area with some flexible furniture and seating with the chairs we already have. We proposed to have a trial period until we were happy with the arrangement.

North-West Nave (rear two pews) – Refreshment and Welcome Area

- to create a new and dedicated serving area for refreshments
- to create a welcome area for welcoming and leaflets

At the time the proposal was to leave the 2 pews and create a 'table top/coffee bar' arrangement. We were aware that we need think through carefully how this will work for our refreshments teams and us.

South Aisle – Music and Storage Area

- to create an extended music area for the choir and children/young people
- to create better storage

A year has now passed and most of this work has been finished and we are very grateful for all those who have contributed to get things completed. There are still some elements to round off 'Stage 1', and a summary of what has been completed and is left to do is below:

Completed: Sideboard and small table; Lady chapel floor and alter frontal; AV system; Coloured lighting; Band Staging; Removal of the pews and carpeting of south and north aisles; Chairs and Screens; Various items: settee, children's table/chairs, coffee table/s, plants, lights.

The total cost of the above has been in the region of £45,000 which has come from legacy money allocated to church improvements. After these works and costs, we have about £73,000 remaining. We feel that we have on the one hand achieved good value for money, and on the other hand, spent at an appropriate level commensurate to our lovely church which is an historic and listed building.

To Complete: There are a number of elements to complete Stage 1 within our faculty permission:

1. Broadband Installation (cable via Stables or Free Street)	£2-5k
2. Storage in family area (fabric cover or oak boxes)	£0-£5k
3. TV Screens for choir and family area	£1k
4. Refreshment and Welcome area (back 2 left pews)	£1-2k
5. AV System relocation	£1-2k
6. Keyboard/Drum Kit	£5k
7. Tables	£1k
8. Various Items e.g., Display Board	<u>£1k</u>
Total	<u>£12-22k</u>

It is proposed that these remaining items go for PCC discussion and decision at our November meeting so that quotes can be obtained and the work done in early 2025. Assuming costs are in the region of above, this will leave £51-61k for any further stages of improvements we might want to do.

With regard to all this work, we recognise that it has brought quite a bit of change, but we are pleased it has been generally well received and seen as really improving our welcome and what we can do. Looking forwards, the PCC wants to begin some further discussion for other parts of the church and towards an overall plan. The key 'values/criteria' that we feel that are important in any more 're-imagining and re-arranging' are:

Welcome – what further changes would improve our welcome in practically and experientially?

Comfort – what further changes would improve people's comfort physically and otherwise?

Use – what further changes would help our church be much more regularly used by us and our community?

All these things are interrelated and we have some provisional thoughts of what might be good and will want to hear your ideas. Our Architect and our Archdeacon are keen to support us in this next stage of the process (in line with the Diocese and Deanery vision plans) to help us balance our churches historic nature with ensuring it is helping us in our ministry and mission. Whatever further work we might want to do will need further discussion and consultation (ourselves, community and other bodies such as English Heritage and the Victorian Society) and a faculty permission.

To conclude, we hope this is helpful to understand the overall picture of where we are. If you would like to comment or have a question, please do get in touch and in due course we will let you know about next steps.

Many thanks

Revd James – Rector
Paul Emmerson – Fabric
Liz Webb – Warden
Amanda Cawood - Warden