

Lydeard St Lawrence Church Development Project

The story so far – 2019



In February 2017 a Development Project Team was set up and has met monthly ever since, initially looking at installing toilet facilities. The original idea grew to include wider issues about the way the church is used. Progress has gradually gathered pace.

We started by visiting local churches which have undergone similar re-ordering. A decision was made to appoint a new Architect, as it was felt that we should consult someone who had wide experience of the type of work which we were planning. The Team have worked closely with the Architect to explore options and present suitable schemes.

Some documents were prepared, and a site meeting arranged, in order to obtain advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) as to what was possible and as part of the Faculty process giving permission to make alterations and additions.

The Team were successful in their application to the Big Lottery “Awards for all”, to fund a “community engagement project”. This has covered the cost of survey work and

equipment. A voluntary Funding Manager has also been appointed, to help us co-ordinate and progress further grant applications.

The Team sought the support of the Parish Council about resurfacing of the public footpath from the church gate to the war memorial, in preparation for the Armistice Centenary event later this year. The large and obtrusive tree stump situated close to the war memorial has also been removed.

In the Spring of 2018, the church heating system failed and was condemned. Meetings with heating engineers have taken place to look at future options and a decision is imminent on the way forward – hopefully before Winter sets in!

A presentation of the various options drafted by the Architect will be on display at events planned during the next few months, to keep the local community informed as to ideas and progress and to invite their thoughts and comments.