

Uplyme Church

re-ordering the interior



Public Consultation Document
April 2011

Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. A History of Development**
- 3. Vision Day Outcomes**
- 4. Development Group**
- 5. Diocesan Advisory Committee**
- 6. Parochial Church Council**
- 7. Bell Tower**
- 8. Chancel**
- 9. Nave**

1. Introduction

For at least 40 years, the incumbents and respective PCCs have discussed re-ordering the interior of Uplyme Church.

The mission of the church is very clear, and it is that we seek to support and bless the following mission priorities:

- 1. Families**
- 2. Schools**
- 3. Pastoral Care**
- 4. Worldwide**
- 5. Other churches**

We believe that re-ordering the interior of the church will enhance the mission of the church, particularly with the first three mission priorities.

So far we have...

- held a church Vision Day to discuss the use of the church building. (July 2010)
- set up a Development Group subcommittee of the PCC. (Sept 2010)
- sought advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. (Nov 2010)
- written to community organisations including the school. (January 2010)
- approval of the recommendations by PCC (March 2011)
- a parish consultation with the wider community. (April 2011)

2. A History of Development

Throughout history, church buildings have been constantly developed to meet the needs of living and breathing communities. The Normans added towers, the Victorians added pews, and in our lifetime we added toilet facilities and wheelchair access. Church buildings in use are the ones that are prevented from falling into a state of disrepair.

Times have changed and the needs of the church and community have changed. For example, Mrs Ethelston's school has 158 pupils and no hall. They are desperate for space, and next door is a church building standing empty 90% of the time. Also, the number of worshippers has grown as the community has grown. We regularly have 120 worshippers on a Sunday morning and over 200 on special occasions. We do not have a church hall.

We are very blessed in Uplyme that we do not ask the local community to fund any of the upkeep or maintenance of the church building. There is the idea that the church has lots of money – not so. The whole cost of upkeep is provided by the church members (including legacies and one-off donations) on behalf of the whole Uplyme community. For example, did you know that in 2009 it cost us, the church members over £30,000 to repair the tower?

In 2010, we started making plans to re-order the church interior to meet the needs of the church and local community.

3. Vision Day Outcomes

In July 2010 we held a vision day. The **Vision Day** looked at the church interior as:

1. **Worship Space**
2. **Prayer Space**
3. **Meeting Space**
4. **Learning Space**
5. **School Space**



The following priorities were highlighted:

1. Increase the flexibility and comfort of seating.
2. Increase the usable area and visibility.
3. Create a designated prayer space.

We have already made some minor developments as a result of the vision day:

1. We have provided a projection facility.
2. Developed the vestry as an office space.
3. Created a crèche area in the gallery.
4. Created a resource area and library in the gallery.
5. Improved the safety of the stairway.

4. Development Group

In September 2010, we set up a Development Group subcommittee of the Parochial Church Council. This group was comprised of the vicar, churchwardens and members of the church community with specialist skills.

The Development Group concluded that the bell tower, nave and chancel all had potential for development to meet the priorities highlighted by the vision day.

5. Diocesan Advisory Committee

In November 2010, we had a meeting with the Diocesan Advisory Committee – a team of planners and historical specialists.

The conclusion of this meeting was that:

1. The nave should be developed into a 21st century space for worship and for the school.
2. The chancel could be developed but must retain its Victorian collegiate feel.
3. The bell tower should have its floor reinstated.

6. Parochial Church Council

In March 2011, the parochial church council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Development Group as outlined in this proposal.

7. Bell Tower

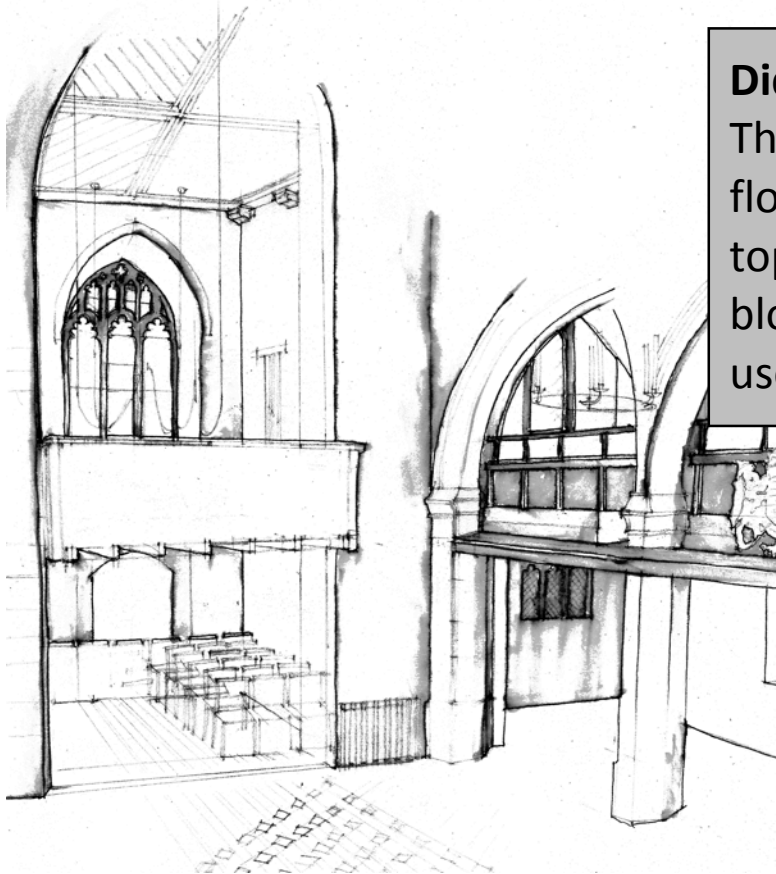
We need...

- to use the ground floor of the tower, particularly for school worship, larger worship gatherings and weddings.

We propose...

- to reinstate a timber bell ringing floor in the tower with access via a door from the gallery.
- to move the fonts to more suitable locations

The benefit of reinstating a floor in the bell tower is that it will create a flexible space on the ground floor that, for example, can be filled with over 30 chairs. The bell ringers would actually prefer to ring from a ringing floor as they get better connection with the bells.



Did you know?

The bell tower used to have a floor in it, with access at the top of the stairs. This access is blocked up and currently being used as a storage cupboard.

8. Chancel

We need...

- adequate seating in the chancel to hold small celebrations of eucharist using the top table (not currently used for celebration).
- more flexible seating for the current church choirs.
- a flexible space that can be used for prayer by the community.

We propose...

- to remove and recycle the two modern choir frontals.
- to move the existing choir stalls towards the walls.
- to remove the old carpet and reveal the marble flooring.
- to place chairs in the chancel
- to rationalise the existing lighting

This proposal will maintain the Victorian collegiate feel of the chancel whilst increasing space and creating more flexible seating.



9. Nave

We need...

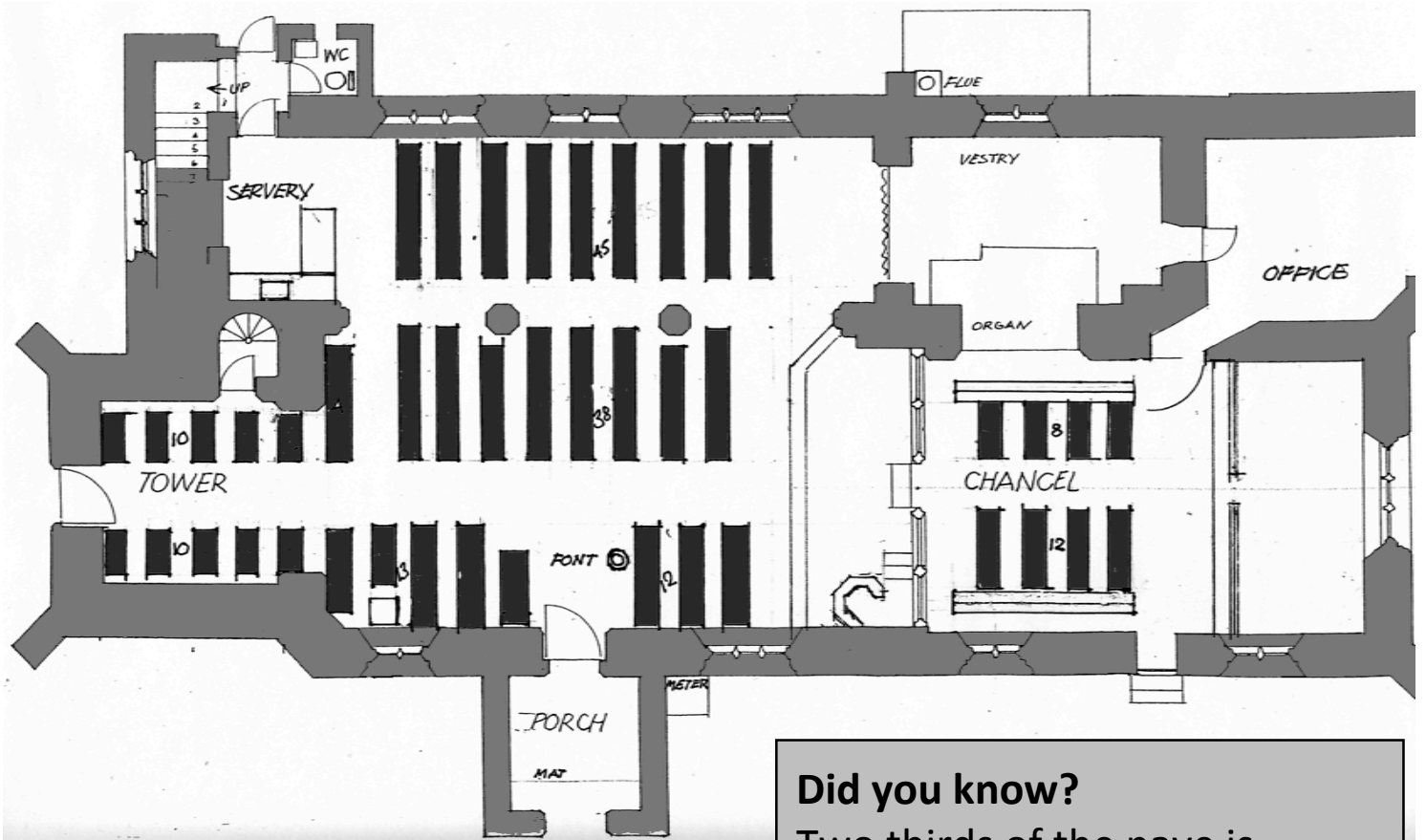
- to create a unified space that feels warm and welcoming.
- to create a more flexible environment for school use, worship and other meetings.
- to create a space in which Mrs Ethelston's school children can sit on the floor.

Enabling the children to sit on the floor means we can accommodate all the children plus parents at school worship providing a warmer and safer environment.

There are currently not enough pews in the church to seat everyone on a Sunday and we use a combination of pews with an assortment of wooden and plastic chairs. Neither the pews nor current wooden chairs stack. We also move the existing non-stacking chairs every week for school worship. Because we do not have a church hall, we need the flexibility of seating for other meetings too.

We propose...

- to swing the two existing south wall radiators such that they are flush with the wall.
- to fit carpet in the nave and tower
- to coir mat the porch
- to remove and auction the existing pews.
- to provide wooden, aesthetically pleasing, stackable and comfortable chairs.



Did you know?

Two thirds of the nave is currently carpeted with brown carpet that could do with being replaced. Some of the tiled flooring is also in a state of disrepair.

