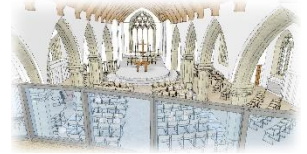




Building for Life at St Paul's, Phase 1 **Questions and answers, September 2019**



Q. How is the fund-raising going?

A. Over the past two years we have achieved something truly remarkable. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of so many of you and many others we have raised, or have promises for, a total of over £900,000.

Q. What have we got enough money to pay for?

A. The main core of the project, with a flexible contract designed to allow us to incorporate the other elements during the year as funds arise.

Q. Can these be added later?

A. Yes. The builders will let us know the deadline dates. Others can even be added after the build is complete, again as funds allow.

Q. Can we afford it?

A. Yes. We are only committing to work for which we have raised funds through the generosity of the congregation (donations and legacies), the local community and grant-giving organisations. We will not incur debt for future congregations.

Q. How does the recent news of a substantial legacy affect this?

A. Les Scott who worshipped in, and cared for, St Paul's for many decades died peacefully on 4th August. We have been advised that he included the parish in his Will in a most generous way. We await written confirmation of the details. In due course, and after much careful thought and ongoing prayer, the PCC will be discussing how best to use his gift which, depending on timings, could open up new possibilities for our *Building for Life* project.

Q. What are the main benefits we will see when the work is done?

A. The realisation of our vision developed over extensive years of consultation. A transformed and fully accessible church which is more beautiful for worship, with comfortable heating, more and better meeting spaces for the church and community and suitable kitchen and toilet facilities.

Q. When will the building work begin?

A. We hope to start during October.

Q. Does this mean St Paul's Church will not be usable by the congregation during the building work?

A. Yes. This is a major project, affecting the whole of the inside of the building, including new flooring throughout. But all of the other buildings on the site will remain open throughout the build (see below).

Q. How long will all this take?

A. Round about a year.

Q. What about Phase 2 (new community hall/pre-school building with accommodation above for site manager), which is in the master-plan for the whole site? Will that still go ahead? Will that mean another long period when the church cannot be used?

A. Yes; it is our firm intention to continue with our ambitious plan for the whole site. Once we are safely back worshipping and enjoying our new church facilities, we will decide on an appropriate timing for this. St Paul's itself should be fully usable during Phase 2.

Q. Will the parish office still be in operation?

A. Yes, absolutely. The office will be re-located to the smaller space in the parish rooms during construction work.

Q. What about St Paul's Pre-school and Florian School of Dance, and all the other user groups of St Paul's Hall and the parish rooms?

A. These will all continue. The builder's yard will be restricted to the tarmacked parking area in front of the hall. The gravelled car park will be usable as now. Hall and parish rooms activities will be accessible though the meadow and continue as usual. This is very important.

Q. Does this mean there will be less parking space?

A. Yes, a bit less. This will need careful working out, especially in monitoring those eligible to use the car park and appropriate 'policing'!

Q. What about all the chairs and other movable objects in St Paul's?

A. These will all need to be removed and safely stored. We plan to have a container in the car park and are looking for other storage venues. (Do you by any chance have an empty garage or other space? Please let Peter Seal or Katy Palacio, admin@stmatthewstpaul.org, 844878, know.)

Q. Where will we have our 9.30 Parish Communion?

A. The plan is to use Western School Hall. There are classrooms that Mary Copping and her team can use for our all-important children's and youth work, as well as provision for babies. We will have just one storage cupboard for

essential items, such as coffee- and tea-making equipment. There will be lots of work each week to set up/clear up, and we will be asking for volunteers to join these teams. There is as much parking as at St Paul's. We know this will feel different from being in a church, but after lots of careful research your PCC have concluded that this is the best option. It feels the right size and has comfortable adult seating.

Q. Where is Western?

A. The address is Browning Drive, S022 5AR. It is in the middle of residential housing. Go from the Fulflood Arms, on Cheriton Road, up Milverton Road; at the top turn right into Poets Way, then 2nd right into Browning Drive. Western is at the end of the road, directly ahead of you.

Q. How will people know that we're meeting at Western and how to get there?

A. There will be lots of ongoing communication at the 9.30 service each week between now and then. There will be good, clear signage at St Paul's for occasional visitors or first-time worshippers, as well as a link on our website.

Q. What about those who currently need lifts?

A. Again, really important. This will continue and may need to expand.

Q. What about access for those with reduced mobility and for wheelchairs?

A. The whole site is on the level, with appropriately wide doorways (as St Paul's will have!).

Q. Are there any toilets and baby-changing facilities?

A. Yes, the staff toilets will be available, and we are planning baby-change provision.

Q. What about our music?

A. This will continue in much the same way. Bill Lucas and Ian Rees have already visited Western and begun to make plans for how best to make the music that is so central to our worship. The weekly hymns/songs will all be in an expanded welcome sheet. There's a piano we can use. We will try to keep everything as familiar as possible, including the first-Sunday-in-the-month band and third-Sunday choir.

Q. What will be good about being at Western rather than in St Paul's?!

A. It will be good for us to have to 'travel more lightly' and see what emerges. Congregations who have had this experience speak of some inevitable disruption and challenge, but also of surprises which have been real blessings. One of the important reasons for using Western is that it is our church school, with which we have very strong links. Worshipping there each week will enable us to develop these links, probably in ways that we cannot yet imagine.

Q. What if I try to worship at Western and really don't like it – what can I do then?

A. The folk at St Matthew's will welcome you with open arms at either 8.00 or 11.15. We're really keen that no one is 'lost', and please do talk to one of the clergy or the churchwardens, as we're keen to keep in touch with you ... and everyone who currently usually attends the 9.30 service.

Q. What about baptisms, weddings and funerals?

A. We realise this is sensitive, especially the last of these. Wonderfully we have St Matthew's, which will always be available for congregations of about 50. Larger services will be possible in neighbouring churches, for example there will be a wedding from the parish at St Bartholomew's, Hyde, in November.

Q. What about our big Christmas services, for example Christmas Carols and the Christmas Eve Nativity?

A. We're working on this and will communicate as plans emerge. There are a small number of churches and other appropriate venues in Winchester with whom we are in discussion. There's still lots we need to think about!

How can I help?

- Crucially and most importantly, by continuing to pray for this project. Do please consider joining the weekly e-mail of prayer requests that Kathleen Freeman prepares and circulates (contact klvfreeman@aol.com).
- By encouraging and supporting those working hardest to make all this happen in the best way possible. You probably know who they are!
- By talking positively about all that the newly refurbished St Paul's will offer to both the worshipping congregations and to community user groups.
- By offering storage space or ideas of possible storage.
- By offering to join one of the Western Sunday worship set-up/clear-up teams.
- By your ongoing financial support, both for the building project and our essential everyday expenditure.

We are very blessed belonging to a special, supportive church family; the essence of this will not change through having a different venue. Our Lord is everywhere, not only present in church buildings. 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (Matthew 18: 20).

www.stmatthewstpaul.org



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey