

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR HELP?

As we consider how we might reimagine our church building to meet the needs of our community today and tomorrow, we would love for our whole church family to help us discern what that might look like.

Your written views on our initial proposals will form an essential part of the consultation process that we need to complete. They will help us discern a final 'Statement of Need' which will be used to draw up plans for what that building project could look like. They will also help us seek permission from the Diocese and other authorities for that building project.

We need views and ideas from all ages so please encourage all family members (if they are willing) to complete the survey.

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PRAYERS,
AND HELP BY RESPONDING TO THE SURVEY.
THANK YOU!**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Our PCC will draw up a 'Statement of Need' which will be a final list of what we feel our church building needs to better serve our community. This will then be used by the architect to draw up plans for what a transformed St Mary's Church could look like, whilst still preserving the essential and the best of our history and all that we have inherited. We shall keep you updated as to our progress - thank you for your support.



Welcome to our 'Church Building Survey' Information Leaflet



**Our church at the heart of our community?
Your opinion matters!**

Our History

Did you know there has been a place of worship on this site for nearly a thousand years!



It is believed that building began on a church of St Mary's in Whittlesey in 1128. The present church building dates back to the 13th century after the original was destroyed in the Whittlesey fire of 1244.

During this time the building has been modified several times. The church was significantly modified in 1862 when the church was restored by the architect Sir Gilbert Scott. In this refitting the pulpit was installed and the box-pews, galleries, and sky-lights were removed.

More recently, in the 1990s some of the pews were removed from the side aisles to create some flexible space within the building. This space is now used by the church to serve and enjoy refreshments and for our baby and children's area.

In other words, St Mary's Church didn't always look like it does today. Over the years the building and furniture have changed to reflect the needs of the time. We feel that it is now time to reimagine our church building once again to meet the needs of our community now and in the generations to come.



Why do we need change again now?

To meet the present and future needs of our growing church and town, the PCC would love to transform the inside of our church building. This would include:

- Removing the pews to create an open and flexible space. The current fixed pews greatly limit what we can do as a church community and how we can use the building. A flexible space would allow us, and the wider community, to use the church building in new and different ways. This would also remove the current trip hazard of the raised floor under the fixed pews.
- Installing a small number of WCs (toilets). At the moment we have no toilet facilities and our visitors have to leave St Mary's to access publicly available toilets nearby.
- Installing a kitchen space. This would allow us to extend the hospitality we can currently offer (e.g. before/after worship, at our coffee mornings and the concerts we host.) It could also enable us to prepare and cook food, e.g. for Alpha or a similar church group/event.
- Creating a meeting room which can be used and heated independently from the rest of the building.
- Creating a Parish Office space to support the administration of the parish, and wider Benefice. It would also create the potential to one day employ a Parish Administrator or other Church Worker.
- We would consider our current heating system. Would underfloor heating be more efficient and cost-effective? Would something else be better? Could it be more friendly to the environment?
- Our sound system really needs updating and we could consider a more effective and permanent placing and use of screens.