

## **UPDATE, September 2019: St Mary's Thakeham Building Project**

We were grateful and delighted to receive approval of our planning application from Horsham District Council last month and consequently work on the detailed design for this project has now started.

Drawings of the proposed scheme are displayed at Church Rooms, adjacent to the Car Park. Church Rooms are usually open for coffee after services starting at 0930 or 1030 (see our programme), so why not come along to one of these, then have a look at plans over a coffee and a chat?

The scope of the project includes:

- Demolition of the old vestry, boiler house and of a shed to the North of the building, to be followed by construction of an extension to house
  - A new vestry (large enough to be used as a small meeting room or creche),
  - Toilets (including accessible and baby change facilities),
  - A plant room (for equipment, not for pot plants!).
- Repair of external stonework.
- Construction of a new bell ringing gallery at mezzanine level with installation of a small kitchen area at ground level of the bell tower.
- Relocation of the font to create additional space and to create a processional route from the West door along the aisle of the church.
- Repositioning of 2 rows of front pews and realignment of some others to create more flexible space at the front of the church.
- Renewal of heating, lighting, electrical circuits and audio visual equipment.
- Enclosing of the porch on the South side to minimise cold drafts.

We now know that due to the intrusive nature of the work the church will regrettably need to close fully during the period of construction, estimated to start in June 2020 (subject to further permissions and tender programmes expected next year) for a period of around 6-9 months and we'll provide updates about alternative arrangements in due course.

Next steps are as follows:

- Continue to pray for God's help and wisdom in everything we do.
- Work with architects to finalise detailed designs.
- Upon completion of these, seek final permissions as required at the end of the year.
- Plan alternative arrangements for services, meetings and activities to prepare for next year.