

# PROJECT INSPIRE

- ◆ Conserving our heritage
- ◆ Making bold improvements
- ◆ Creating welcoming spaces
- ◆ Reducing our carbon footprint

## IMPORTANT NEWS



Recently, this very important announcement was made.

*Dear friends,  
I am delighted to report that the Chancellor of the Diocese of Gloucester has issued his Judgement which fully supports the work encompassed by Project Inspire to reorder and restore elements of the church.*

*This is the most significant milestone for our project to date and a great answer to prayer. It means that the church authorities have seen all our hard work and preparation, read all the documentation, and judge that our scheme is appropriate for the church building of St. Lawrence, Lechlade. It means that we can look forward to the future with confidence and we can use our building more effectively for mission and ministry.*

*A special word of thanks goes to Nigel Jones, chairman of our Restoration and Reordering Project Group for a vast amount of work he has undertaken on our behalf; and to members of that team in supporting the project.*

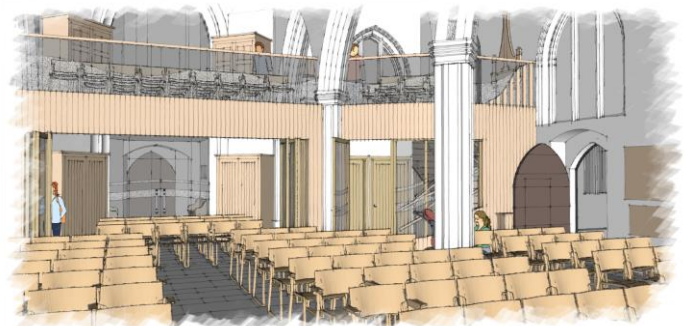
*As a church family, we are a step closer to having a reordered building with the north porch as the main entrance, experiencing a bright, fresh, airy interior with flexible seating on a new stone floor, heated by eco-*

*friendly heat pumps. Changes will make the church accessible for everyone. A new gallery at the West End will provide proper kitchen and toilet facilities. A modern AV system will mean that we can continue to worship in a variety of different ways as well as using the church through the week and for the wider community.*

*What next? Well, fundraising efforts have been underway for some time and will continued with renewed purpose. The project also moves to Design Stage 4. This stage is where we produce the detailed architectural and engineering designs and specifications ready for tendering, submission to building control and construction.*

*Please continue to pray for Project Inspire and that our Father in Heaven would guide us in His ways and for His Kingdom. As King David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, he instructed the people to sing, 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.' (1 Ch 16:34). May that be our prayer, too.*

Andrew Cinnamon (Vicar)



## Net Carbon Zero

Our plans to achieve 'net carbon zero' include air source heat pumps with underfloor heating; we also plan to install solar panels on the south aisle roof and remove the existing gas boilers. We have made a bid for funding from the Church of England Net Carbon Zero Demonstrators' Project. Grants up to 25% of net capital funding are available. Project inspire has been put forward by the Diocese to the national body judging bids. An event at Chedworth church was attended to see examples of heating equipment in use and was helpful in shaping our thinking about the final choice of such items. The latest position is that our bid has been shortlisted and is being evaluated by the national team.

## Fundraising

We are immensely grateful for the many generous pledges received to-date; it is not too late to add to them. Pledges helped us demonstrate to the Chancellor that the parish is backing this project; pledges also influence trust funds and others who make grants that this is a project worth supporting.

At the service on 14<sup>th</sup> July a further push was made on pledges. These can be made in installments and are a major contributor to our target and even more so if Gift Aid can be claimed.

Please speak to David Turtle or the Church Wardens for more information or pick up a brochure at the back of church.

David has been successful in securing grants. An excellent £74,000 has been secured already and we are hopeful that much more will follow now that the Faculty will be granted.

## Events

An imaginative programme of events has been planned to raise funds for the project. The next event is the Summer Garden Party at Langford Downs Farm on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

In September we then have an Auction of Promises on 28th. Offers of exciting and attractive promises are invited.

Details of all events can be found on the display boards in church and on the parish website.

## Grants

David Turtle has been working hard to attract grants from various bodies. We are delighted to inform parishioners that a Christian charity - the **Benefact Trust** - has awarded Project Inspire £48,500. We are very grateful for this generous grant and for the support given to the mission of our church in Lechlade.

## Next steps

As indicated above, the next stage of the project is the detailed design work which will be undertaken by our conservation architects Chedburn Codd. Work is underway to prepare the specification for this critical stage.

Meanwhile, just to remind us all, our five key goals are provision of the following:

1. an open and welcoming space for flexible worship and community use;
2. level access for all abilities from the re-opened north porch to the communion rail;
3. shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building;
4. efficient energy use towards the Church of England 'net-zero' carbon reduction target by 2030; and
5. heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes.

Parishioners are asked to remember these elements underpinning our project and to pray for the successful outcome that will deliver a renewed place of worship and mission in the heart of Lechlade.

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St Lawrence Church,*

*Restoration and Reordering Project Group*

*Parish Office, Church Cottage*

*Market Place, Lechlade, GL7 3AB*

*Tel 01367-358653*

*Email [projectinspire@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](mailto:projectinspire@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk)*

*Website [stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](http://stlawrencelechlade.org.uk)*