



**Parish Church of
Barbourne St Stephen
'Praising God and
Serving the Community'
An update from Revd. Lindsey**

You may have noticed some display boards at the back of church so this flyer is to add some background to the context of those slides which offer some possible options. Last year each church in the Diocese was encouraged to produce a Health and Sustainability Plan with the aim of making new disciples, sharing hope, and transforming communities. The PCC with help from Victoria, our Mission Accompanier identified the following as key areas for potential growth:

- **Children and families (Family Church)**

Much has been done in this area already with the introduction of Sunday Stars which celebrates its first birthday this month and the joint appointment of Helen, our Children, Youth and Families Worker. The redesign of our children's space will also soon be underway.

- **The use of the church and our buildings as a community hub and resource (Compassionate Church)**

This is a much larger project which may well have a number of phases – the first of which *could* be to level the floor on the north side of the church and install a servery area. The installation of some accessible toilet facilities would also be of real benefit to all who attend, use or visit the church. These are just initial ideas and part of a much larger vision to ensure that we take good care of our 'health' as a church and make it sustainable for the generations that will follow.

Whilst taking good care of our 'health' involves maintaining our building and planning for the future; it also involves thinking about our spiritual health too, so I encourage us all to pray the prayers for growth and vision offered by our Diocese earlier this year. I include the prayer for vision below:

God of all grace and goodness,
you lead us into the way of love and life:
hear our prayer for your church in this place, St. Stephens;
may we offer you our hearts and minds in worship,
bring others to walk with us as disciples of Christ,
and share the hope to which you have called us,
that by the work of your Spirit
we may see lives and communities transformed,
and be drawn ever more deeply into your life of love,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

We have been blessed to see real growth in the use of the church building and the way in which it is now possible to use the space on the north side of the church since the pews have been removed. It would be wonderful to see even more groups using this flexible space which in turn would bring more folk into the building though some work around the needs of our local community would need to be undertaken first.

Feedback from some of our recent external visitors has been really positive and we'd love to hear what you think. Your ideas do not need to reflect the options displayed – they are provided for your thoughts and inspiration. Do please speak to Lindsey, Ruth or Kevin or feel free to email us at the specially designated email address:

compassionatechurch.ststephens@outlook.com

We look forward to hearing from you.