

St Andrew's Church Development

Serving God and the Community of Chew Stoke



Our beautiful Parish Church has been **at the heart of the village of Chew Stoke** for almost 600 years. We have exciting plans to secure its future.

St Andrew's PCC is mindful that our much-loved church is not always able to not provide a warm, comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. The building is **old, difficult** and **expensive to heat**, and **limited in its use** given that the interior is a single area unable to accommodate more than one event at any one time.

How do we plan to improve this?

An ambitious programme of work has been defined to address these problems. We call it **Project Bilbie** after Chew Stoke's famous bell foundry. Hopefully, funding will be secured from several charities to meet the estimated total cost of some **£300,000**.

The improvements will include **reinstating the old tower organ loft** to accommodate a new ringing chamber; creating a discreet, multi-use area beneath; and **glazing the internal face of the tower** from the apex of the arch to the new mezzanine floor. This glazing will insulate the rear of the church and significantly cut our heating costs by reducing the flow of cold that cascades down the tower.



A more **efficient and effective heating system** is proposed as is a much improved, and manageable **lighting system** which will be cheaper to run. It is proposed also to remove some pews from the rear of the Church to create a flexible area able to accommodate other activities. While remaining primarily a place of worship, the re-ordered church will become a social hub and accommodate a variety of uses.

How might the restored church be used by the community?

A more energy-efficient and flexible space might be used by the community in several ways, including:

- † A **heritage centre** for the presentation of village history, and the display of the many artefacts, documents and photographs that are known to exist
- † **Interactive IT displays** covering aspects of village life
- † Interactive **access to the internet** for those having no computer access providing contact with to gov.uk web sites including DVLA, NHS and HMRC
- † Space for **local schools** to use as they might wish
- † A **learning centre** for study
- † An ad hoc **meeting place** available all day for local people and visitors
- † A venue for **minor social events**
- † A **concert space** and **music venue**
- † An **information hub for local trails and walks**
- † A **library** or book exchange area



Can you help us?

A project on this scale must be a community effort. Therefore, the PCC would welcome any offers of help from the Community with the overall management of the Project or to assist in fundraising.

In particular, we would love to hear from you if you have skills which could assist in the following areas:

- † Help in researching and recommending the most effective heating system
- † Liaising with the contractor selected to provide the lighting system
- † Help with fundraising including assistance with preparing the bids to the charities, including drafting the major bid to the HLF
- † Anyone prepared to assist in managing the overall project

Anyone wishing to help should contact

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THANK YOU!

The Bible Project Online
www.chewvalleywest.org/bilbie

