

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH
LOWER PEOVER

PROVISION of AN ACCESSIBLE TOILET

PROJECT SUMMARY / UPDATE

PHASE ONE

It was identified during the development of the Church Growth Action Plans that the provision of an accessible toilet facility would be just one step but an important one, in the overall development of St Oswald's "Ministry of Welcome" Initiative.

Such a facility clearly being an essential and necessary factor towards not just maintaining but also most importantly ensuring the longer term viability of the church and its place in the community.

A proposal document detailing the provision of an accessible toilet was presented to and considered by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at a meeting held in September 2012.

In a unanimous vote the PCC agreed that the proposal for a conventional unisex fully accessible toilet located in a new small building outside of the North – Easterly corner of Church be proceeded with.

A planning application was submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) in May 2013. Following the withdrawal of the application in October 2013 a site meeting was held November 2013 with the representative of the CWaC Rural Design Team who with others had objected to the original Planning Application.

Subsequently the proposals with modifications incorporated by the Architect were resubmitted in March 2014 and planning approval was granted in May 2014 followed by Building Regulations approval in December 2014.

In parallel with the planning application a Faculty Petition, which is a Church of England procedural legal requirement, was also prepared and submitted to the Chester Diocesan Advisory Committee.

At a meeting held Friday 24th October 2014 the Faculty application was considered and the Committee's decision was to: *Recommend for approval*.

The petition then was forwarded to the Consistory Court for consideration by the Court Chancellor with approval being finally confirmed in February of this year.

In order to establish a cost reference basis a Quantity Surveying Company provided a budget estimate for the project of £89,000.

Naturally this figure has caused some comment but one has to bear in mind and understand the implications of a Grade 1 Listed Church and the constraints involved in developments in a sensitive area. Importantly though this figure is acceptable for use when preparing applications as many grant bodies require a professionally produced budget cost estimate as part of an application.

With at long last, approval being granted by all the various bodies involved Phase One of the project is complete.

The challenge facing the Project Team and members of the Church is to now organise fund raising activities and grant applications towards meeting the cost of providing this much-needed facility.

A number of organisations that can provide grants operate on a match funding principle i.e. Monies raised by the Church can be matched pound for pound so all contributions to the Project whether large or small are beneficial.

Details and building drawings are on display in the Church. However if you should require any further information please don't hesitate to ask the Vicar, Church Warden or members of the PCC.

Walton Bowyer

March 2015