



19 January 2024  
*The First Sunday in Lent*

Dear All,

This letter is a brief update on The Beacon Project. A couple of weeks ago, the Beacon Project Committee met with our architect to review the second set of drawings for the refurbishment of our building and grounds. We're now agreed that this will broadly see the interior configured so that the Tower Café will be located on the west side of the building and worship and prayer space on the east, along with an improved kitchen, toilets, vestry, and entrances. A mezzanine would be installed for seating above the kitchen and tower vestry and office space created where the pipe organ is now located. Finally, there would be new flooring, lighting, and seating. Though the design will be unique to St Mary's, it will probably bear many similarities to All Saints, Hereford. Indeed, members of the committee will be going to there on the 28<sup>th</sup> to look at the design and speak with people from the church and café.

The next step in the design involves decisions about aesthetics such as flooring, lighting, and colour schemes. Our aim here is to come up with some general ideas that we can take to the congregation and wider public for consultation and feedback. Two areas of further exploration involve the possible opening up of our outside area to make the church more easily accessible and determining whether we will be allowed to move the choir stalls to allow congregational seating within the chancel.

We are also considering the viability of installing solar panels on the hidden south-facing roof of the nave. Paul Woods and Nigel Krawczyk are spearheading this effort and have already begun inviting engineers to put forward proposals and offer quotes.

The Committee continues to work together incredibly well. We hope to be able to present the plans and allow for congregational and public consultation in the spring. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Liz Parry, Kim Scally, Kim Woods, Phil Park, Chaz Hefford, Huw Marshall, or me.

Pob bendith,

Mark