

The Guild of Centurions

Note on advice given by Guild members to St Nicholas Church, Great Doddington

The Church of St Nicholas is faced with a similar problem to many others in that whilst there is a desire to develop the fellowship and social life of the Church neither within the historic fabric nor within reasonable distance are there any of the basic facilities that would make this possible. A well imagined and designed scheme to provide catering and toilet facilities in the NW corner of the church, clear the pews and create a circulating area at the W end, and provide a vestry in the NE corner of the nave has been agreed and approved.



To finance a project costing the region of £70,000 a “Flush Fund” was set up but by 2011 this had to some extent stalled with almost half the total for the full project raised, and with no clear plan as to how to take the project forward. At this point (14th July) the Chairman of the Guild of Centurions and I were able to visit and meet with a number of those most closely involved with planning for and raising funds for the project.

It was clear that having conceived the development as a whole the idea of breaking it down into manageable portions had not been seen. The project had been conceived as a wholly professional undertaking and there was no thought of reducing cost by voluntary input. The wider community was seen as a quarry for donations (perhaps largely exhausted) but no recent effective steps had been taken to recruit people and groups as “owners” of the project who would have an interest in supporting it. These were areas in which we were able to make some positive suggestions, and there was a gratifying willingness to take on board some of these, and to look positively at what they had achieved so far.

It is very pleasing to report the progress made since that meeting and especially the decisions taken at their PCC meeting on the 31st August:

- ❖ they are holding a weekly prayer meeting each Saturday with a regular attendance,
- ❖ their Gift Day on the 1st October will be preceded by a leaflet drop to the whole parish and will consist of tea/coffee and cakes in the church from 10-1600, with a display including artist’s representations as well as plans, and people on hand to chat and explain,
- ❖ the project will be carried out in two phases with the NW development being the first phase, and
- ❖ the removal of pews, pew platform and temporary screens in the NW corner will be a volunteer project, saving £1,580 but more importantly seen as generating “ownership” of the scheme.

Given the above the plan is that the PCC meeting on the 4th October will set a start date for the first phase of the work.

Bill Featherstone

For more information about the Guild of Centurions visit:

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/centurions.pdf

To get in touch with the Guild of Centurions contact:

Chairman, John MacMahon. Tel: 01280 703791 / 07964 564468. j2macmahon@o2.co.uk

Secretary: Cheryl Goddard. Cheryl.cfgbusiness@googlemail.com

October 2011