

30% saw the church as central to our community, 70% did not.

68.6% saw the outside of our buildings as inviting, 31.4% did not.

- 107 of you commented on the grounds - many voicing appreciation and others concern that they be more colourful. Other suggestions included more benches, increased paved areas to bridge the gap between gate and church and creating outside areas for schools/children's work, worship and outreach. 33 specifically wanted something done about the yew trees and associated pigeon mess!
- 67 expressed concerns to see the church open more and improve visibility into the church building. Hopefully the refurbishment will enable this to happen.
- 51 commented on signage - suggestions included more readable from a distance 'what's on' signs, improved signage and lighting to church hall and office, advertising of all events outside.



We thank God for all that we have - and know there is much more we can do to bring in His Kingdom. May we all play our part in this.

Do join us in prayer for the NEXT STEPS in this exciting project. Please pray:

- for God's wisdom and leading for the planning team
- for sufficient funds
- that the church authorities will give the necessary permissions

Donations are always welcome. Further information on how to give please contact Piers Coutts by email: treasurer@stmarysely.org

Further information about the Building Transformation Project (BTP), with plans and video can be found on our website: www.stmarysely.org

St Mary's Church, Ely, CB7 4HF Reg. Charity No. 1133993



NOW IS THE TIME!

**Transforming our building to meet
the needs of a growing church & city**



**Thank you for responding to
our Church Survey.
Here's some feedback
and 'NEXT STEPS'.**

Phase 1 of the Building Transformation Project (BTP) focusses on the church building.

Phase 2 will include changes to the office area and halls.

We are proceeding with phase 1 of the project for now.

We had 215 responses to the church survey.

Of those who answered the questions,

- 93.6% were in favour of removing the pews, levelling the floor and installing underfloor heating, 6.4% disagreed.
- 89.7% in favour of changes to the east end of the church including a new vestry, storage, floor levelling and a ramp up, 10.3% disagreed.
- 92% in favour of installing a WC in the existing creche area, 8% disagreed.
- 95.5% in favour of extending the present creche area to create a meeting room/creche, 4.5% disagreed
- 91.5% in favour of creating a balcony over the extended creche to include additional church seating and a partitioned tower meeting room, 8.5% disagreed.

These results show overwhelming support for the proposals outlined in the survey. However, there are some concerns and we take these seriously.

Everyone wanted our building to be accessible to all, and we hope to include those with both visible and invisible disabilities in discussions once detailed plans are being made.

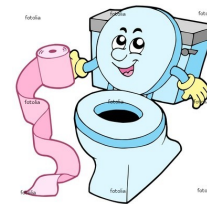
Some were concerned we would lose the sense of the church being a 'sacred space'. We hope the plans assure you that the focus will continue to be on us as the worshipping community, with spaces for quiet reflection (especially in the Lady Chapel) that will also be versatile and flexible.

Concerns were raised about the appropriate use of the church for non-church activities. In the future, as now for the hall, all requests for bookings are assessed against criteria agreed by the PCC and any queries checked by the Ministry Team.



Chairs - to address concerns raised about comfort, we will have a selection available to trial in church and your feedback will be welcome.

East end of the church - the stained glass window will continue to be visible. Concealed doors behind the altar will lead to a storage area (LH side) and a new vestry (RH side) which will also include the sidilia and piscina, available for visitors to view when the church is open and supervised. Existing red and black tiles will be re-positioned in the chancel area, the organ will be to the left in the north aisle as will a ramp up to the chancel.



Having a **WC** in the new meeting room/creche area will make it much easier for carers to use it during service times, and the church can be used for events without having to open up the office corridor.

The **extended creche** will also serve as a **meeting room**. There will be curtains or the sliding glass doors will be part frosted to give privacy when needed. The WC will be at the back of the area. There will be a glass partition



between the first floor meeting /tower room and the **balcony** seating. Access will be via stairs, the cost of a lift is prohibitive. The '**old vestry**' will become a small meeting room with facilities for making drinks.