

Dear Parishioners,

Appeal for Donations Towards Cost of New Parish Room

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have recently received planning permission for construction of our new Parish room alongside the church. The room will have accessible toilet facilities as well as a refreshment area and French door access to a patio overlooking the church garden.

When normality returns (and with the latest news on a vaccine that hopefully will not be too long!) it will provide a pleasant space and outdoor area for you to socialise after mass for tea and coffee and, amongst other things, host the children's liturgy and first communion classes as well as an area where visitors can gather before and after mass for christenings, weddings, funerals and other family occasions.

The opportunity is also being taken to widen and reconfigure the existing ramp to facilitate better access to the church by those with mobility constraints. The steps at the front of the church have for a long time been a fall hazard and to remedy this they will be replaced by a brick wall with railings facing on to Norwich Road. There will be steps at each side as well as a new ramp leading from the church to the Parish room.

The reduction in depth will allow for wedding and funeral cars to access the front of the church and also provide a couple of extra spaces for parking in normal circumstances.

The great majority of this has been made possible by donations totalling £100,000 with Gift Aid from a parishioner and family for which I am needless to say, hugely grateful.

HOWEVER the total cost of all the works that we would like to do, including modification of the existing ramp and provision of accessible toilet facilities is expected to be in the region of £115,000 which leaves us with a £15,000 funding shortfall.

Unfortunately this is more than we can afford from our normal reserves, which in the current circumstances have been decreasing and are needed for general maintenance and upkeep of the parish buildings and grounds.

This is therefore your opportunity to make a contribution towards what will be the biggest improvement to our parish facilities for a considerable number of years.

If you would like to make a donation and/or need further information please either pop in for a chat, call me on 01473 741975 or mob 07939 920844 or email me at parishpriest@marymagdalens.org.

I hope that I can count on your support to create this asset for current and future generations of our church.

Thank You and God Bless



Canon Mathew George