

The future of St. Mary's Church and the shop/café project

Dear Resident

We understand that several Tattingstone residents have recently signed a petition to 'stop any structural change to St. Mary's Church, Tattingstone, to ensure it is not used as a village shop'.

We are posting this note because we are keen to better understand the reasons some residents are uncomfortable about the proposals for St Mary's, so that we can explore whether concerns can be addressed and correct any misunderstandings. We of course respect the concerns that have been raised. Although both of us feel that the proposals are in the best long-term interests of St Mary's and the wider Tattingstone community, we do not consider them to be 'final'. We are open to explore ways in which they can be reshaped to address concerns, and, if necessary, to consider alternative arrangements.

We consider the proposals for a shop/café and a wider re-ordering of St. Mary's to be very important to the long-term mission and financial viability of the Church. Whilst we have tried to set out the proposals clearly in the last month or so, including through a three-day-event in February in the Church, we recognise that there are concerns from some parts of the community that need to be addressed.

This note invites residents to a Discussion Evening on Thursday, March 24th at 8pm at the Village Hall, offers some further context for the proposals for St. Mary's given the situation facing the Church and provides some responses to specific concerns expressed.

Please take a few minutes to read the following which we hope provides further and helpful background to the proposals. We do hope that you are able to attend the Discussion Evening. If you are unable to, or instead would like to discuss the proposals and your concerns with us outside of the event, please contact either of us on the phone or email details below. We would be very happy to discuss this matter with you.

Yours sincerely,



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