



ASPIRE

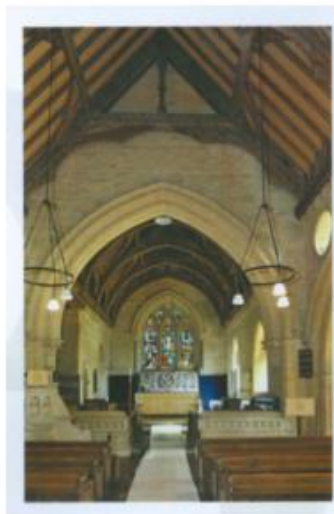
ALL SAINTS PROJECT IN REACHING EVERYONE



All Saints Church at Brightwalton is a beautiful Grade 2* listed building, designed by the Victorian architect G E Street. Surrounded by its well-kept grounds, it stands at the heart of the village.

Memorials in glass and stone bear the names of village families and the churchyard is a rural epitome of a peaceful final resting place.

There is a fine peal of six bells, set beneath a spire which is the centrepiece and landmark of the community.



Yet despite the importance and beauty of the church, it has become considerably under-used.

We have a plan for internal improvements which will enable more regular and wide-ranging activity. We call the project **ASPIRE**.

ALL SAINTS PROJECT IN REACHING EVERYONE

Our aspiration is to breathe new life into our church, for generations to come.



We aim to provide space that will allow more informal forms of worship as well as improving the building for regular services. We will have areas for private prayer, for small meetings, for robing and for a crèche.

Choir practices will be comfortably accommodated, and visiting choirs will be able to sing here, too. The whole ambience will be more welcoming. A beautiful historic building which says 'Come on in!'

We see the future of the church as a place for villagers to meet for such as breakfast clubs, coffee mornings, community suppers, seasonal fairs and business events.

The church will be a lovely venue for drama, concerts, exhibitions, social gatherings, adult education, and events and presentations of various types.

BRIGHTWALTON SCHOOL

Brightwalton C of E Primary School, immediately adjacent to the church and with safe pedestrian access, will be one of the main beneficiaries of the ASPIRE project. The development of church facilities will enhance several aspects of school life, including collective worship, curriculum and parental engagement. The local community will be able to participate in school life in a way that is not easy within the confines the school building. Also, more regular use of the church will 'normalise' churchgoing for children who may not experience it otherwise, and sow early seeds for a lasting harvest.



Using the church as an extension of the classroom, the school will capitalise on the ambience and sense of history. It will be used for lessons in Art, Religious Education and PSHE as well as History.

Music will be well served by the refurbished building. Individual and group instrumental lessons will be carried on without disturbing others in school.

The church will offer a safe and hospitable place for the school to develop its work in connecting with parents and school families. For example, it will be possible to offer coffee at drop-off time and accommodate parents with younger children whilst they wait to collect older siblings from an after-school club.

OTHER USER GROUPS

Several local musicians and leaders of musical ensembles and singing groups have said that the church will be an ideal place for practice and performance, and we look forward to All Saints' being a concert venue.

We also anticipate the church becoming a venue for the arts, crafts, drama and music festivals which take place annually in West Berkshire.

The business community, too, has already expressed its interest. Home workers will be able to hold small private meetings and stage presentations.

VISION and STEWARDSHIP

The ASPIRE committee of Brightwalton villagers aims to raise funds to turn this historic church into a beautiful community asset with a sustainable future.

Donations and charitable grants are being sought, whilst the village itself has embarked on a programme of fundraising events.

The following pages set out our plan.

THE NAVE



The plan includes the provision of a **WC** and a **servery** at the west end, behind a folding oak partition.

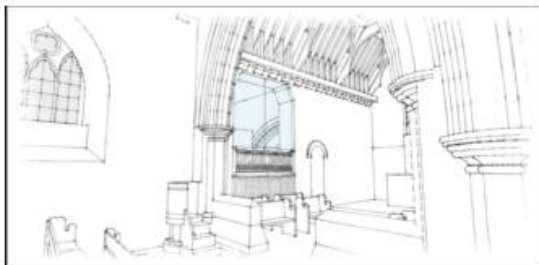
The removal of some pews will open up an area as a **multi-use space**. The remaining pews will be modified so that they can be moved easily, allowing flexibility in the use of the nave. Stackable chairs will maximise seating for services in which the congregation exceeds the capacity of the pews.



This work in the nave will be the first phase of the project.

THE VESTRY and ORGAN

The current organ will be removed, and the entire vestry area will be redeveloped on two levels, to include a **registry, meeting room, crèche** and **store**. The upper level will have a glazed wall, giving a visual connection to the chancel.



A new **digital organ**, with a hymnal function, will be placed in the body of the church.

LIGHTING HEATING REDECORATION

Underfloor heating will be installed, and the Victorian tiles refurbished and relaid.

All areas will benefit from a new low-energy **lighting scheme**.

There will be **re-decoration** throughout.

