

The Future for Christ Church Working Group

APCM Report: April 2023



'Future for Christ Church'

(The provision of essential amenities and open spaces to serve the needs of the congregation and community)

The past year has been one of slow but steady progress in acquiring the necessary funding for the 'Future for Christ Church' project. To date eight different potential grant givers have been approached for funding, each with their own unique application process and criteria that must be shown to be met; some being primarily interested in supporting Christian mission and outreach whilst others are focussed on the impact on the wider community.

I am pleased to report that Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust has offered a grant of £10,000 which is a very generous offer and well above their usual level of grant. In addition, £16,450 has been raised so far through ongoing community fundraising and donations which is amazing. In an exciting development the mum's from 'The Ark' have started their own fundraising on our behalf by holding a bring and buy coffee morning in January this year and local business Apetito have donated £500 from their Staff Foundation for which we are very grateful.

Feedback from potential funders is that we have a very strong case, however award committees often only meet every 3 or 4 months so this is a very slow process and there is huge demand for their support; we must therefore expect some refusals. The diocesan Funding Advisor, Anna Hardy, has been tremendously supportive, visiting Christ Church to find out about the two projects, reviewing several of the draft applications and offering advice for their improvement.

Progress will continue to be reported in NewsLink and on the notice board.

'Discover Christ Church!'

(A complementary intergenerational project co-designed with young people to find, explore, reveal, restore and share the hidden heritage on our doorstep)

I am pleased to report that the National Lottery Heritage Fund decided to support the 'Discover Christ Church!' project to the tune of £239,761 and thanks to further generous donations this project is now fully funded and about to get under way. Gillian Ellis-King has been appointed to the post of Project Co-Ordinator and Becky Strike is our Project Outreach Officer. Both posts, and the project, commence on 17th April 2023.

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Finally, as she is now reporting to the working group Gillian Ellis-King is stepping down from membership but will continue to be an advisor to the group as necessary. We are indebted to both Gillian and Ted King for their invaluable contribution to both projects through their membership of the working group and thank them for all their hard work.

Working Group Membership:

Revd Ann Keating, Ann Chapman, Wendy Brown, Zoe Yeomans, John Sealy (Tower Captain),
Stephen Pike (chair and treasurer)

Stephen Pike
(April 2023)