

## Building Development Update



Since my last update in May a considerable amount of progress has been made and the monthly updates that appear in the Portsdown Post from each member of the BDG allows us all to reflect on the progress so far. Each month, the Building Development Group (BDG) usually meets on at least two occasions and this allows us to regularly monitor the various strands of the project.

Many people will just see the project as 'providing a toilet' but there is much more involved as there are numerous implications on many other aspects of the church building. However, the momentum is underway and things are beginning to happen. As always, more help would be welcomed and if you feel you could help please speak to any member of the BDG.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October marked the launch of our first significant fund raising event with the 'Hands Up Harvest' event. This was organised by Vicky Stephen and a large group of helpers. With the auction of promises, a contribution to the BDG Fund of some £3,000 is expected. The BDG would like to thank everyone who was involved in the preparation and planning and especially in the event itself. It really goes to show what can be achieved and sets a very high standard that we want to emulate with future fund raising events.

Future events are being planned that will enable us to have fun and raise money towards the project. The next event is likely to be 'Curry by Candlelight' in February with a Barn Dance planned for June. Further ideas are always welcomed but we also need helpers so please consider how you can contribute. At the September PCC meeting, the

appointment of Daniel Forshaw Design & Conservation Architects was approved and this has allowed us to move ahead with initial drawings of the toilet, drainage requirements and tea/coffee preparation. The BDG are keeping the PCC regularly informed of progress and all key decisions are then agreed by the PCC. Further details will be presented to the PCC meeting in November and the BDG plan to hold information sessions, similar to those previously held, in late November to ensure the congregation can be kept fully informed. Please do come along to any of the sessions as they are a great opportunity to see and hear what is happening – and we will undoubtedly be making good use of our screen and projector!

We are hoping that before too long the architects will be able to submit the necessary planning application to Portsmouth City Council and the necessary Faculty request to the Diocesan Advisory Council for the care of churches (DAC). You may have heard us mention ‘Faculties’ in many of our updates and if you are interested in learning more you can find lots of information at:

[http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what\\_we\\_do/property\\_dac\\_finance/dac/](http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/property_dac_finance/dac/)

At this stage we cannot give any definite dates as to when building work may actually begin but we expect the need to install the drainage for the toilets and tea/coffee preparation area to be one of the first visible signs – so watch where you step! We hope you will be encouraged with what has already happened and please do ask us questions – we want to help everyone understand what is involved.

**BDG Update – produced by Graham Olway**