

## Re-ordering Group Update to the APCM 2020

### The Story so far

- 2010 The current re-ordering Discussion begins – focussed on removing rear pews
- 2011 PCC agrees outline proposal but thinks it wise to wait to consult the new Rector
- 2012 New Rector joins the discussion.
- 2013 A ten year fabric plan is discussed and agreed
- 2014 The seven criteria of the re-ordering project were agreed and published in Stow Times. Estimates obtained for removal of rear pews and faculty applied for and approved by DAC. Public meeting held to look at objections for proposals Faculty withdrawn for further consideration after meeting
- 2015 Wider vision begins to be considered and phases proposed including limited dais at the front. Organ issues emerge and profession opinion questions the long-term future of the instrument. Feasibility study commissioned of a proposed new space for a replacement.
- 2016 DAC visit suggests removal of all pews in principle and suggests cogent design brief including meeting all needs that could be reasonably foreseen. Brief prepared and consultation evenings arranged on emerging proposals indicate broad support for the direction of travel. Alternative pipe organ proposals explored with DAC and organ builders approached to submit designs.
- 2017 Organ designs short-listed and visits to see instruments/ factories arranged. English instrument added to list of possibilities. Heating system fails and new boilers researched and installed mindful of future possibilities.
- 2018 Stow Town Council visit to understand the proposals and the Chairman wrote to express their wholehearted support. Brian Craig joins the Re-ordering Group as Project manager.  
The group discuss the phasing of the project in detail and the options for work on current lighting, electrics and heating systems.
- 2019 The PCC support a detailed plan to remove pews at the back of the church and in the far North Aisle following on-site consultations with the Architect. Tenders are invited and received from contractors
- 2020 Consultation evening planned for May deferred because of Covid-19. APCM invited to respond to proposals for taking the project forward.

The initial phase of the Re-ordering proposal will be to remove fixed pews a rear and north aisle. Some moveable pews would be retained. The floor would be made good. Current heating and electrical circuits would be adapted. Subsequent phases proposed will involve the construction of a dais and the re-ordering of the Chancel, and Pulpit; moving and renewing the organ; the provision of a heat-retaining porch. Progress on phases beyond the first will depend on sufficient funds becoming available.