

The pine benches, a relatively recent addition in the long life of the church, are simple to maintain and seat people efficiently in rows. But they are prohibitively uncomfortable for some people, and they make things difficult for weddings, funerals, and any occasion where a wheelchair-user might want to sit in the congregation rather than at the back. Consultation is ongoing about possible changes, which might see some, or all, of the benches removed.

This might give much flexibility for different uses of the building by church and community. Like many churches, we no longer have a robed choir. The choir stalls were moved forward in 1975 to bring the choir into the congregation. Now there is the possibility of opening up more space. The old Vestry could be redeveloped as an office/welcome centre space closer to the church which will be open during the week, freeing up its present location in the Palmer Room to be used for small group activities and a crèche.

We are excited about the potential for this project to enable the church to serve future generations in Bathampton.

An artist imagines the church with chairs in place of benches



The estimated total cost
of all proposed project phases is
£500,000.



Re:Generations Appeal

...for a building and environment
received from previous generations
to hand on to future generations
to serve the Parish sustainably

How you can help

PARTICIPATE

in the community consultation about potential uses of the church building.

See the questionnaire on our website.

DONATE

to the *Re:Generations* Appeal
via BACS, cheque or
regular standing order.

Bank details for *Re:Generations*
(not general church funds):
St Nicholas Church Bathampton
Sort Code: 60-02-05
Account Number: 66470293

If you are a UK taxpayer willing for us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, declaration forms are available on the website or on request.

www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk





Bathampton's parish church of St Nicholas is embarking on an ambitious journey of a project to develop and enhance a major community heritage asset: the church building.

There has been a place of worship here for hundreds of years. Previous generations invested in what they handed down to us to serve the Parish, including Ralph Allen in the 18th Century. Others added, and in 1975 the Australia Chapel commemorated the best-known occupant buried here: **Admiral Arthur Phillip**, who commanded the First Fleet and became the first Governor of New South Wales.

An informative display at the back of church helps us to appreciate our heritage and to welcome our many visitors from Australia. In 1993 a tasteful extension was added, including the Miller Room, to host a range of community uses and active, growing church life including young and old.



Now we believe it is time for our generation to invest in the main church building to enable it better to play its part in our mission to serve the Parish, and the world, by sharing the love of the Lord Jesus. The old gas-fired heating system has failed, prompting the decision to get a new environmentally-friendly system to welcome future generations comfortably, attractively, and efficiently. The first phase of the *Re:Generations* Project includes essential rewiring, connecting a three phase electric supply, and installing far infrared heating.



Once we have a church where people can be warm in winter, subsequent phases of *Re:Generations* aspire to make it more welcoming, accessible, comfortable and versatile than ever before. You will arrive through the porch down a gentle stone slope. Glass doors will allow you to see in before you enter; even if you arrive late or are hesitant, **you are welcome!**



Computer-generated image of the church with "Halo" chandelier-mounted heaters

