



OPEN GARDENS SOUVENIR ISSUE

The Cossington Village Centre

Building for Cossington's Future



Project Group Update: Spring 2016



We aim to improve the fabric & facilities of All Saints Church in order to:

- **Serve the whole community of Cossington as a community centre for all.**
- **Enable and equip the growing Cossington church family to thrive.**



Welcome to this latest update on the progress of the church project. The members of the Project Group wish to keep Cossington, friends & visitors as up to date as possible with these exciting development plans and we have plenty to report in this special *Open Gardens* edition of the newsletter!

The vision is to repair the nave of the church so it can be used both as a place of worship and as a community meeting space. The plans also include an extension in similar Mountsorrel granite to the north side. This will accommodate smaller meeting rooms, much needed toilets and a kitchen since the present building offers no such facilities. At present Cossington's only community space is the Jubilee Hall which has served well but is too small and not easily accessible.

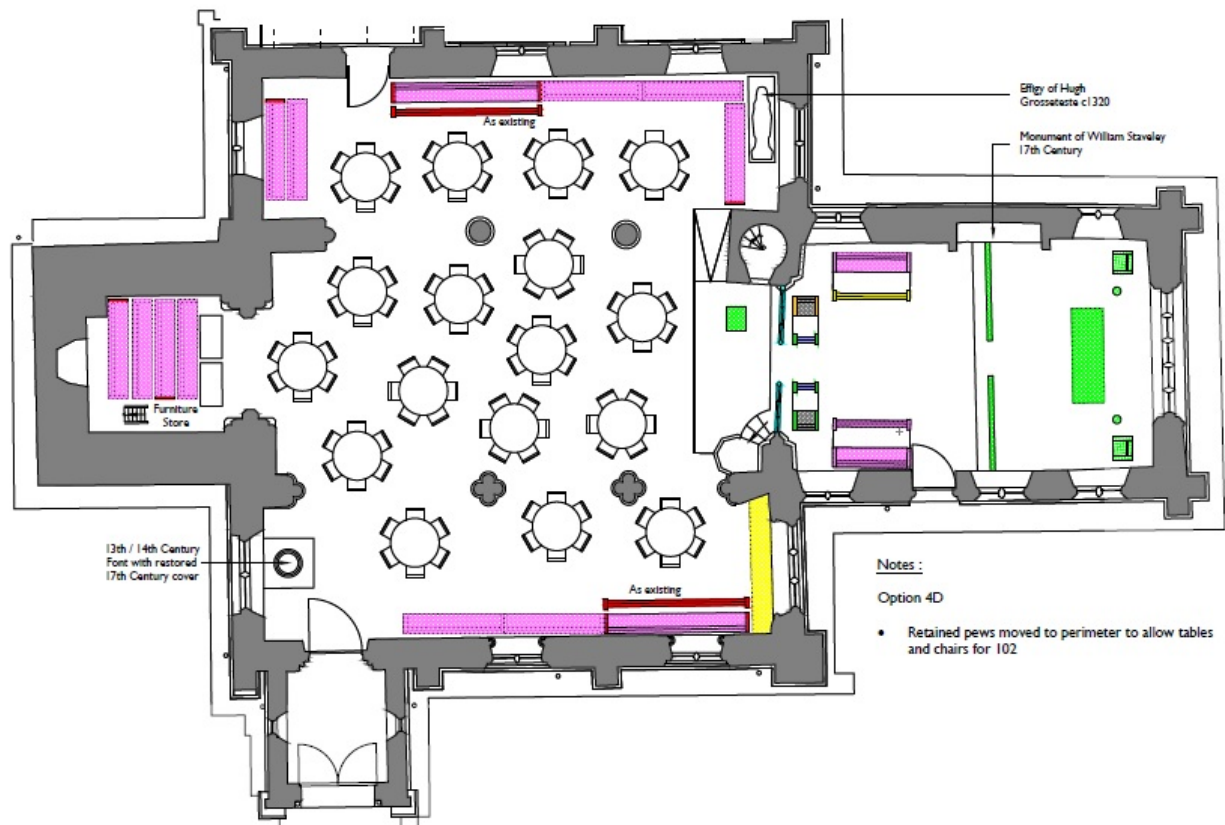


Importantly, the outline plans have received an agreement 'in principle' from the DAC, Historic England and the other statutory organisations who have a say in such listed buildings' matters. The details are now being developed for further consultation. Planning permission from Charnwood Borough Council for the extension is the next key step for the second half of this year.

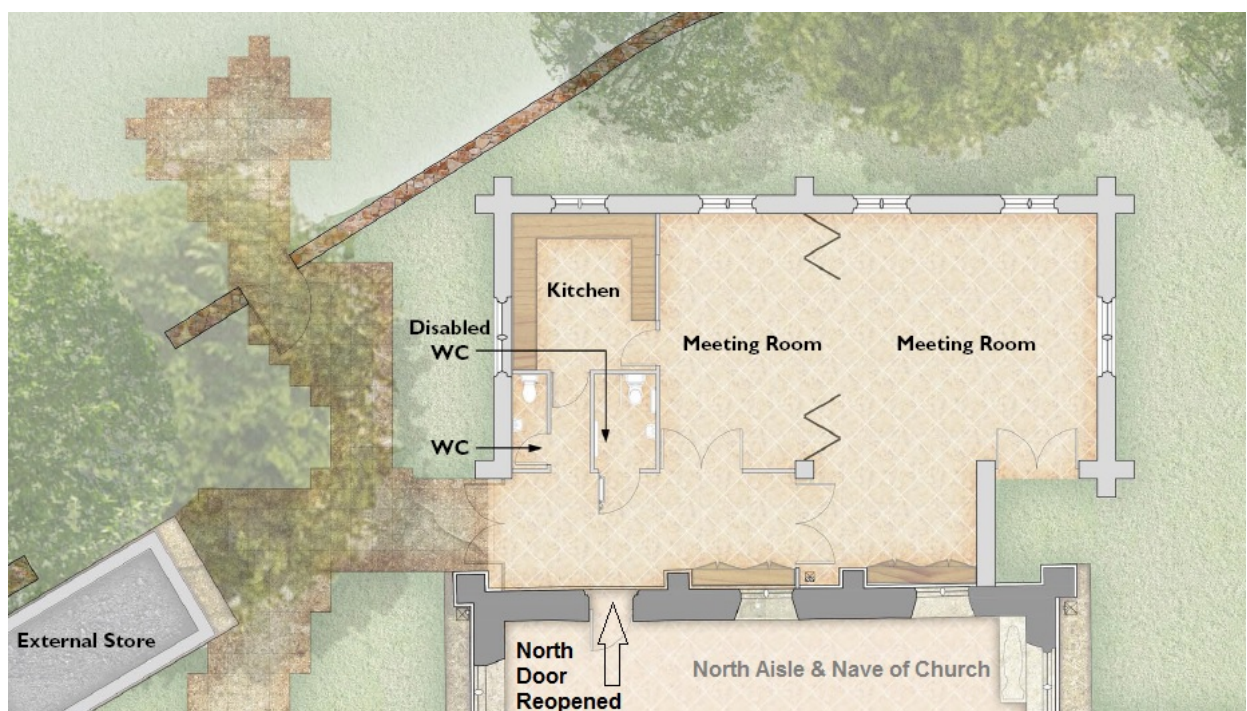
The computer graphic above is a view of the church from the War Memorial gate showing how the extension will join onto the existing building.

The interior of the church will be restored to include a smooth, heated floor which will enable the retention of many original pews mounted on castors. This will allow them to be moved around and the space opened up for other community activities. These might include social and leisure occasions and appropriate sporting events. A very exciting possibility is being able to seat over a hundred people at tables for wedding receptions, fund raising dinners and other such civic celebrations.

Imagine village events in such a special environment for all to appreciate!



Whilst the extension will provide much needed facilities such as toilets and a fully equipped kitchen there will also be two meeting rooms available for smaller groups. These rooms can be opened up to provide a larger meeting area. This flexible accommodation will allow a very wide range of village groups and activities to flourish thus helping to reinvigorate our sense of community in Cossington.



Meanwhile, more detailed drawings and specifications for the extension are being prepared to support the Planning Application to Charnwood. Once the outcome of the planning application is known we will need to apply for a Faculty which is a Diocese permission to do work to both the interior and the extension.

Website www.ourcossington.org – a new website has been set up to support the project and as a resource for village clubs and societies, including those which might want to use the Village Centre in due course. Do have a look and feel free to send us appropriate items which can be posted on it.

Archaeological investigations

Several small test pits have been dug as this recent photo shows. These are to provide information on what may be lying under the nave and aisles' floor and in the external area to the north of the church which will be covered by the extension.



Open Gardens – things to see

The outline of the extension has been marked out on the north side of the church, near the village car park, to help people better understand the position of the extension.

There is also a display in the church and a video-loop showing more detailed plans and there are members of Project Group on hand to answer any questions.

Please do come along and see for yourselves and find out more about what has been achieved so far with this exciting project. We are all very much looking forward to taking the next steps in this ambitious village venture which will transform village life.

Please keep your thoughts & ideas coming and especially advise us of events, new clubs or societies you would like to start up or run, such as the new group aiming to tell *Cossington's Story*. These will then be considered in the detailed plans.

Thank you for your attention whether you are a visitor or a villager; your support is vital to this project and if you have any contributions or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

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