



## **Virtuous Circles II – Turnastone Project Update – September 2020**

The project being developed to insert overnight visitor accommodation at St Mary Magdalene Turnastone is making good progress.

Vowchurch and Turnastone PCC met in July to receive a presentation from the architects, Connolly Wellingham and unanimously resolved that the project should proceed to detailed designs and to securing the necessary permissions and funding to implement, hopefully in 2021.

The innovative project aims to attract a wider audience to understand and enjoy the fascinating heritage offered in our churches, whilst creating a valuable income stream for building management and maintenance, leading to long term sustainability.

We're aiming to deliver a high quality design that will be both appropriate and sympathetic to the space at Turnastone, and that can also be a pilot for other churches that may be interested in learning from, or replicating the design elsewhere.

The approved designs mean a freestanding, reversible, low energy and low impact timber structure will sit at the back of St Mary's nave, a Grade II\* Listed building, creating rentable accommodation facilities for visitors looking for a unique experience, spiritual retreat or pilgrimage. The congregation will also benefit, with new toilet and kitchen facilities.

The development work for this national pilot is being provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We recently submitted a pre-application for Faculty and are in discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and various consultees on the detailed design work. We have appointed mechanical and electrical engineers to help develop the proposals for the various services that will need to be brought into the building; structural engineers and a quantity surveyor.

The project steering group meets regularly and includes representatives of the PCC, the Vicar, the Diocese, Herefordshire Churches Tourism Group, the Churches Conservation Trust and the development team.

If you would like to find out more, get involved or have any questions please contact Revd Simon or our Project Manager Sam Hine [turnastone@visitherefordshirechurches.co.uk](mailto:turnastone@visitherefordshirechurches.co.uk) 07974 772840 or visit [http://www.wyedoreparishes.org.uk/Turnastone\\_files/AccomUnit.htm](http://www.wyedoreparishes.org.uk/Turnastone_files/AccomUnit.htm)