

Chancel Open Space

making space for God and us



The Vision

For many years, members of St Peter's have had a vision to open up the chancel area at the front of the church to make better use of the space for ministry and mission. We are delighted and excited to see all those years of praying and planning come to fruition in the 'Chancel Open Space' project! Opening up the chancel will create a wonderful, new, flexible space for worship and for community events, encouraging more people to come into St Peter's, enjoy this special building and make space for God. It will help to secure St Peter's place at the heart of the community.

We will be able to hold small services such as Morning Prayer, Revive and possibly evening services in the chancel area in comfortable chairs. All age services will benefit from having more space for music and drama. It will provide a larger area for refreshments to be served in the church for some services and events and provide a good space for small meetings.

The enlarged space will be much appreciated by local schools such as Foundations pre-school and Kingfield school, who use it for Christmas plays and concerts. It will enable us to host choirs and larger musical events as part of outreach and fundraising for the church.

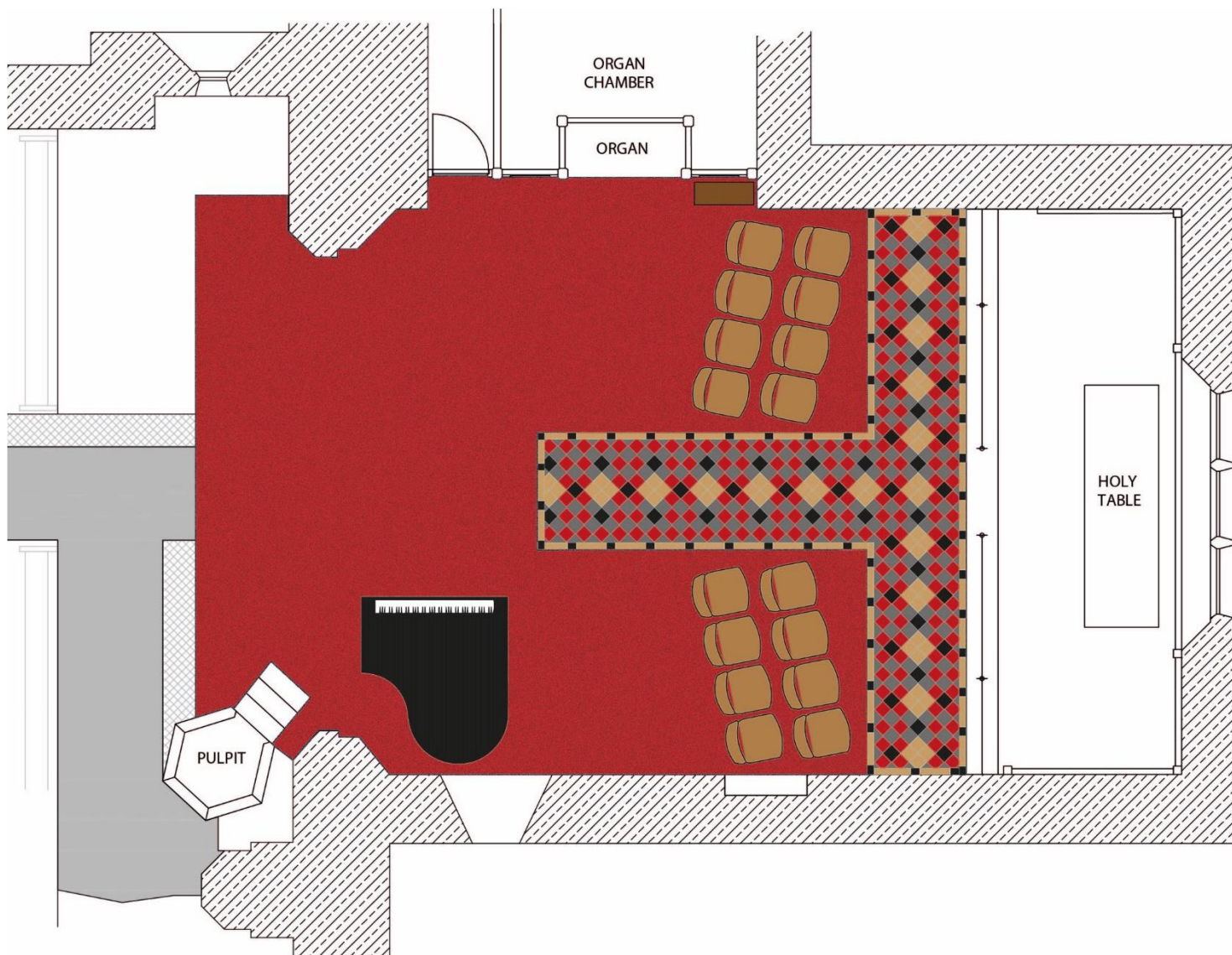
To achieve this, the choir stalls and platforms and grilles will be removed, with the space underneath them filled in with a new limecrete slab floor structure. The whole area will be covered with carpet, except the existing Victorian tiles which will remain. A new bespoke oak bookcase will be built for the organist's books and papers. Twenty comfortable stackable chairs will be purchased for use in the chancel area for multiple purposes.

The work

In conjunction with our architects Thomas Ford and Partners we produced plans for the chancel area and were granted permission by the Church of England to do the work via a Faculty. Thomas Ford and Partners put the work out to tender in early 2022 and we appointed D & P Slegg Ltd who specialise in church building work.

The work will begin on Monday 13 March 2023 and will take approximately 3 weeks, ready in time for Easter services. The chancel area, including the organ, will be screened off for that period, so services during that period will either be led from in front of the chancel or in the church centre.

The Plan



The Chairs

We will initially be purchasing 20 Lightweight Wooden Upholstered Chairs from Alpha Furniture. They are comfortable and can be easily stacked. As part of the faculty approval we had to choose high quality chairs in keeping with the status of the Grade 1 listing of St Peter's. We were given some suggestions and St Peter's Church Council tested them out and chose this one as their favourite.



The cost

The work in total will cost approximately £22,000. This includes the Architect's fees (already paid), Slegg's fee, separate fees for a principal designer, the cost of protecting the organ and the cost of 20 chairs.

The appeal

As of October 2022 we have raised about £2,000 of the approximately £22,000 required. We are looking to raise as much of the rest as we can by the end of March 2023, but will carry on fundraising activities until we have reached the target.

The following are the methods we are seeking to raise funds and below them more information on how you can help:

- Grant applications
- Selling chancel pews
- Sponsoring a chair
- Church Fundraising events
- Personal Sponsorship and fundraising
- Personal gifts

Grant applications

We are applying for grants from a number of bodies, but these are mostly for relatively small amounts and there aren't many appropriate sources of grants for this work. If you know of any suitable grant bodies please let us know. We hope to raise up to £5,000 through grants, but can't guarantee any.

Selling chancel pews

There are 6 pews in the chancel area which will be removed and five are for sale. Would you like one of them for your home or garden or do you know of someone who might be interested? If so please contact Martin Maguire to discuss.

Sponsoring a chair

We will be buying 20 high quality chairs as described above at £125 each. Would you as an individual, or clubbing together as a groups of people, donate the amount for one or more of the 20 chairs that will be bought? A plaque will be erected in the chancel indicating the names of all those who sponsored the chairs.

Church Fundraising events

The church will be organising a number of fundraising events over the next year including our Christmas Tree Festival. They will be advertised in due course. Please participate and invite friends and neighbours. If you would like to organise a fundraising event please speak with Jonathan.

Personal Sponsorship and fundraising

We would like to encourage individuals to undertake a sponsorship challenge or run their own event to raise money for Chancel Open Space. We will promote the event and support it as much as we can, but it should ideally be aimed mostly at people outside St Peter's.

Personal gifts

Would you be able to give generously towards this project to enhance St Peter's and help open up many possibilities for church and community use?

Gifts can be made as follows at any time, ideally before March 2023:

- Cash or cheque to Parish of St Peter Woking in **Chancel Open Space** envelope put in collection or sent to parish office
- Online at www.stpeterwoking.org/chancelopenspace

If you are a tax payer please Gift Aid where you can.

If you intend to leave a legacy to the church how about making a '**Living Legacy**' towards this project and then reducing your legacy by that amount? That way you get to see and enjoy the ministry your legacy contributes towards.

For further information please contact:

Rev Jonathan Thomas

01483 762707

vicar@stpeterwoking.org

Get involved

This is an exciting project for St Peter's Church. We hope you will be excited too and will want to be part of turning the vision into reality, so that together we can 'make space for God and us' at the heart of our community.

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