

## 2020VISION

### LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION 2020



Dear Friends,

When our project was launched in March 2015, 2020 seemed a long way ahead. Now we have reached the actual year, we must now realise that although we have realised over £54000, we are still short of our target of £75000. In addition, there is no realistic prospect of any work starting this year, nor are we yet in any position to apply for grants.

In many ways, 2019 proved to be a frustrating year. We were faced with the anxieties of whether the projected re-organisation of the Newport churches would take place with the result that much energy and anxiety has been spent on what our role was to be in the future, instead of attending to the Project as a single issue. Then also, we have been faced with immediate calls on our resources to pay for unforeseen structural problems affecting the Church windows, again forcing us to in effect raise 2 separate funds – one for the 2020 project and the other for structural repairs. In addition 2 years of negotiation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee have not led to any real progress in furthering the Vision.

Nevertheless, although we shall not see physical results in 2020, we have much to be grateful and thankful to our Father God

Firstly, despite all the setbacks and frustrations, our Vision remains unchanged. The Churchwardens decided that the Church should focus on 2020 Vision to stop us drifting whilst the re-organisation was being worked out.

Secondly we have now forged definite working relationships with the D.A.C. officers, who are anxious to help us. Our architect has now held preliminary talks with the Planning authority and there is prospect of finding a way to resolve the design issues which are preventing us progressing the Project.

Thirdly, we now have the services ( free) of someone who has knowledge of making grant applications for another organisation. When we are in a position of starting the actual work, we should be in a position to make necessary grant applications.

All in all, then we have much to look forward to in the coming year.

My thanks to all devoted members of St John's for sacrificial giving of money, time and talents. We have held many fundraising events during 2019, from the mighty 2 day Music Festival to our Beetle Drives and fun events. Thanks also to our Hall partners who also contribute to the Vision.

My best wishes to you all for 2020.

John Matthews,

Chairman, 2020Vision Working Party