

During recent months efforts from parishioners interested in taking action to reverse the decline in the fabric of the Grade 1 Listed Church in Norton has reaped rewards.

On Monday 18th April 2016 the first important steps were taken when nominations were accepted for three members of the Ecclesiastical Parish Electorate to stand for the Parochial Church Council. In addition two nominated members were received for the office of Churchwarden who will officially take their office in May once they have been **admitted to the office** by the Archdeacon.

With additional members to the PCC in place two resolutions were voted upon which now means there are two Sub-Committees to the PCC. One Sub-Committee has been given a mandate to research and manage the huge task of both restoring the building of All Saints Church whilst at the same time developing the uses and collaborating with an outside organisation, CLASP; Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project with the aim of eventually providing a home to display artefacts uncovered in the parish of Norton. Additional uses for the building are also being explored. Members of this Sub-Committee, the Renaissance Group, have met with the Historic Churches Support Officer for the Diocese of Peterborough to discuss the process of taking this project forward and secure funding. At the time of writing this looks positive. However it does need the support of the parishioners. Although financial contributions are welcome, the project will require evidence the members of the parish support any proposed changes. The PCC or Renaissance Group will make regular announcements regarding developments.

In addition, the second Sub-Committee has been formed from an existing community group, the NVCA who organise events in the village and manage the village hall. The village hall is owned by the Church and for around 30 years it has been leased to the village, however due to financial restrictions it has now been agreed that the accounting for the village hall finances will be brought under the umbrella of the PCC with the NVCA managing the daily running of the property. The NVCA will continue to fundraise and organise events in their own right. Please support their endeavours.

With immediate effect the Church will be open, most days, for visitors to provide a quiet space to reflect. Everyone is welcome. Just in case you question aspects of security and insurance, this action is supported by the insurers. Eventually a sign will announce the Church is open, until then please spread the word and take the opportunity to take a few moments in a restful environment.

The Church will continue to be a place of worship and service dates and times are available by visiting www.allsaintsnorton.weebly.com and service schedules can be found on the Church notice board. There is a plan to deliver these to all houses in the village. Villagers are encouraged to come to the monthly service.

Without attendance of a congregation at such services the church is still in danger of closure. Everyone is most welcome at these services.