

## A New Community Space for Carlton

Those of you who read the last edition of Carlton News will already know something about our exciting project to create a space for our community in St Andrew's Church. This will consist of a space for meetings and activities, together with a kitchen and toilet. We will also level up the path into the church to improve access for the elderly, the disabled and for parents with pushchairs. This community space has now been named the St Andrew's Community Hub.



Site of the new extension

So, to update you on progress. We've had further good news. Leicestershire County Council and the Rank Foundation have both agreed to support our project with donations. The National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund has also asked us to submit a funding proposal, which we have done.

We have also had some good news on the approvals needed before building work can start. The team at the Diocese of Leicester has recommended our project for approval. We expect to hear more on this in May.

Given this excellent news, we have asked a number of building contractors experienced in working on historic monuments to tender for the building work needed. We expect to hear from them in April. I hope Tom Webb will not mind me mentioning here his good work in reviewing the tender documents, given his experience in the construction industry. Thank you, Tom. And to the many other residents who have offered their expertise and support, we are planning to take you up on your kind offers, be warned!

I mentioned some digging in the churchyard last time. A small number of finds have been returned to us from the University of Leicester Archaeological Service, who led the dig. These finds included a floor tile and several roof tiles from the previous church, which burned down before St Andrew's was built in the 1700s. We hope to be able to display these finds in the church.

We are still short of our target for funding, so if you would like to make a donation to support this new community space for us all, please make it to the Friends of St Andrew's (and I will be happy to pass your donation on to them).

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, either around and about in Carlton, or at [rgarnold1@gmail.com](mailto:rgarnold1@gmail.com)

**Robin Arnold**

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**From Carlton News May 2020, p.4.**