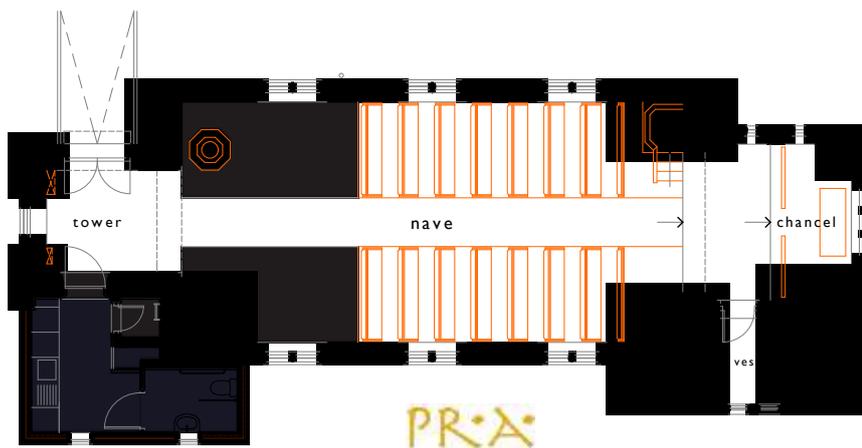


# St Andrew's Community Hub

Those of you who read Carlton News regularly will already know something about our exciting project to create a community space in St Andrews Church, to be known as the St Andrew's Community Hub.

First of all, I hope this finds you all fit and well. I'm sure like me, many of you will be a little fed up with the lockdown. By the time you read this I hope there may be a little more freedom, providing we can all stay safe, of course. Unfortunately, the lockdown has also delayed our project a little.

The good news. We have now received full permission from the Diocese of Leicester to go ahead with the Community Hub. As we already had planning permission, we are now ready to start work. Since I last wrote, we have also identified a building contractor, experienced in projects on historic buildings, to do the work. We will meet them later this month, as the lockdown eases. Earlier in May, our good friends at AR Demolition conducted an asbestos survey on the church, which is necessary before building starts. And more good news: no asbestos found.



Given the progress, I wanted to share an image of what the layout of the church will look like after the project is finished. My thanks to Scarlett, our architect, for the drawing.

However, there is mixed news on funding. Many funders are understandably and rightly prioritising COVID-19 initiatives. Unfortunately, this has meant that they are deferring decisions on projects such as ours. Disappointed, but not defeated, we are now writing to other funders to ask for help. The first two of these, Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation, have already pledged their support. We have also received a very generous donation to the project from Vinod and Rashmi, local residents. Thank you, both.

If you would like to make a donation to support the development of the Community Hub, please make it to the Friends of St Andrews (I would be happy to pass your donation on). If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, either around and about in Carlton, or by email.

**Robin Arnold** *Carlton Parochial Church Council & Project Lead*

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