

## **A message from the Rector**

Dear Friends,

Global events this past week have reminded us all we are living in extraordinary times. A whole year of war in Ukraine, food shortages and threatened schism within the Anglican communion all contrast with wonderful reports of revival coming from Asbury College in Kentucky, where staff and students have been captivated by the presence of the Holy Spirit in a worship service that started with an ordinary gospel message and a testimony of repentance from a student. Wouldn't it be wonderful for something like this to happen in Bath? For Lent this year I have been prompted to study one of the 40 chapters of Exodus each day. It is an amazing story of how God sovereignly intervened to bring freedom of worship to an oppressed nation, using a convicted murderer to lead his people towards the promised land. But the story starts off in prayer as the people 'cried out because of their slavery'. We need to pray that the Lord will move in our church, and in our city, remembering the promise of 2 Chronicles 7v14 'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'

## **Rock project PCC vote update**

Thank you for all your prayers and consideration over the last few weeks as we worked towards the Parochial Church Council (PCC) vote last Sunday evening concerning the future of the Rock project.

The PCC voted by a large majority in favour of pursuing a reduced-scope 'Hybrid version' as the next step forward. This means that as long as we can raise the necessary finance, we will go forward with the essential elements of the internal refurbishment of the church and start the first section of the extension to provide proper disabled access with improved toilets, catering and storage facilities. On that basis, the PCC also voted in favour of applying for a loan of up to £750K from Methodist Chapel Aid to help us explore the financing options available to us.

We prayed for a decisive outcome from the PCC, so now I am praying for the Church to unite behind this decision and trust that the Lord will honour this step of faith as we 'put out into deep waters' for the sake of the future generations in our community.

Just to let you know, at staff prayers on Monday the day after the PCC vote, it was a great encouragement to be notified of another £10K donation received last weekend towards the project. What great timing, thank you Lord!

We will of course communicate this news to the church during forthcoming services and as soon as we know more, the Rock project team will share more detailed plans, drawings and timescales and then invite everyone to come for a question and answer session.

As I reminded the WASPS reception children who came to visit on Thursday morning, Church is all about *people coming together to worship God*. So I trust that this decision will be a great investment to enable the coming generations to glorify God on this site for many years to come.

Thank you so much for serving the Lord in the ways that you do and for carrying this vision forward together.

With my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a horizontal line above the letters.