Why change things?

Keinton Mandeville is a beautiful ancient church.

So why change it?

It has already changed many times over the years, and the plans proposed are following in the footsteps of others.

It is a fine building, but the layout of pews on woodblock flooring means that there is little space to manoeuvre within it.

1. **Accessibility:**

- A family coming with a child in a pram or pushchair has nowhere to place it.
- Someone attending in a wheelchair is restricted to sitting in an aisle and it is often difficult to manoeuvre the chair.
- The small steps in and out of each pew are challenging for some people and a trip hazard.

2. **Versatility:**

- It is not easy to hold discussion groups or committee meetings.
- Worship has to be static and focussed on the front of church; it would be so much better to have the possibility for creative and interactive aspects of worship.
- When the school comes for worship, the children are very cramped in the pews; if they were all able to sit on the floor then they would be more comfortable, and the numbers would be easier to manage.
- Holding special events and experiences for the school and village alike, focussed round the seasons of the year (Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc) is difficult to do within the current space.

3. **Use of the building:**

- Keinton Mandeville Village Hall is excellent and increasingly well used, which means there is limited availability.
- A more adaptable church building could be available for social and cultural events organised by church and village.

Change is not being proposed for change's sake, but so that as a church and Christian community it will be possible to be more inclusive, adaptable and available.

The decision to move ahead with this change will be made by the PCC in due time and after consultation. The plans will then be assessed by the Diocesan authorities and there will be opportunities to discuss and learn from one another.

If you would like to hear more or talk to us about these proposals, then please contact:

Rev Jane Durham rev.jane.durham@gmail.com 01458223417
Rachel Willcox r.kaywillcox@gmail.com
Debbie von Bergen treasurer.kmkw@gmail.com
Claire Harding betweenlanes@live.co.uk