

## Statement of Need

The church is of considerable interest to the community and has many tourist visitors (the Tarka Trail and South West Coast Path pass through Instow). There are two services per month, with attendance averaging 26 people. We are one of three congregations making up the Taw and Torridge Estuary Churches mission community (with Fremington and Westleigh). Our new mission community priorities focus on developing worship, engaging with families and outreach to the community. We have an increasing programme of events and would like to make best use of the church building to support our work with the community and congregation.

## What do we need – and why now?

We need to improve our welcome and provision of information our congregation, community and visitors, in support of our mission community priorities. A new modest area of flexible space will have the following benefits:

- The entrance will be less cluttered and more welcoming, encouraging people to engage.
- We will be able to hold small exhibitions, improving engagement with the community, such as heritage open days.
- We can display information about our chosen charity *North Devon Against Domestic Abuse*.
- There will be improved opportunities for social interaction, helping to combat rural isolation.

We have identified this need through informal consultation with members of the congregation and PCC.

## The proposals

We propose to create a flexible space in the south west corner of the church, which can be used for information displays and to provide an additional social area. This will involve removing three pews and a frontal behind the font.

The pews are mounted with brackets onto a parquet floor (there is no platform). We propose to repair the small holes left by removing the brackets with a wood filler, then lightly sand and oil the floor.

Where the pew ends are wall mounted, we propose to remove these and appoint a contractor to make good the lime plaster.

The first pews has a plaque mounted on it. This does not appear to relate to this particular pew (and this is unlikely to be its original location), so we propose to relocate the plaque to the other rear nave pew.

Freestanding furniture will be used for displays and storage.

### What other options were considered?

We considered whether it might be more suitable to have a flexible space in the north west corner, however this would be more visually disruptive and these pews are in more frequent use. Overall, we feel that removing three pews and the frontal from this area represents a modest change to the church interior.