**Buildings Update – Sunday 2nd April 2023 @ WR**

(ppt 1) The buildings and their maintenance – the goods and fabric of the church – are the responsibility of the Churchwardens primarily and of the PCC, and they are your elected representatives.

(ppt 2) This update follows on from the Quinquennial Inspection at Warwick Road last year by architect Nick Cox. This is the inspection we are required by the Diocese to have of our main church building every 5 years. And the Condition Report of our Prescott Avenue Church Centre we commissioned last year from Caroline Edwards, who is now our church architect. These reports, along with the Project to replace our broken Hall, formed the basis for the PCC appointing a Next Steps Team to look at what options are available to us. The contents of these reports along with the spiralling costs of the proposed Space Project (about £2.4 million) have meant that we must reassess our options in the light of the Lord’s amazing generosity to us – currently standing at about £1.2 million.

The following slides (ppt 3-6) show and detail some of the issues we face with our current buildings on both our sites, in addition to knowing that our Warwick Road Hall is not repairable. Whilst the details are a matter for the Churchwardens and PCC, this does give you a flavour of the scope of works we face and are already dealing with.

(ppt 7) The PCC, via the Next Steps Team, have instructed our church architect to advise and cost semi-urgent works and options for the future.

(ppt 8) So, why this update?

1. Firstly, we all need to **pray**… We are all in this together and this is a heavy burden for the few who are at the forefront of the detailed work. But, the Lord has already graciously and wonderfully shown how generous and faithful He is towards His people and His good works. We are humbly amazed at how much money we have available for this work.

Many of you will remember praying Malachi 3:10 some years ago: “*Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it*”.

1. Secondly, we all need to **give**… Many will remember being excited by the proposals and daunted by the costs of a building project many years ago. The same is still true – we simply cannot manage in our own strength or as just a few. By “giving” we mean every talent that the Lord has blessed each one of us with – whether knowledge or ideas or energy or time or encouragement of others or finances, and especially prayers. One of the first donations came from one young person who had washed cars to raise funds…

This is not work that is done by a few for the benefit of the rest of us; it is our collective way forward as a church family to provide the facilities and opportunities for all of our parish and for future generations:

to honour God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit

*By living ourselves in the light of Jesus*

*By caring for one another in the love of Jesus*

*By reaching out to others with the life of Jesus.*