St. Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that real progress has been made in recent months with regards to the addition of new facilities at the church.

Following the appointment of a new architect, plans have been drawn up for the toilet extension and the refreshment point. These have been approved in principle by the DAC and the formal planning application has today been submitted to AVDC.

For a while now, we have been using the area to the rear of the font for teas and coffee and this has received universal approval, an endorsement of the decision to house the refreshment point in this location. The DAC were helpful with their advice regarding the removal of the pews to accommodate this. There will be no reduction in the overall seating capacity of the church as there will be sufficient storage capacity for chairs to be used whenever required.

The much-awaited toilet facility will be housed within a small extension through the west door with a short link to the church. Again, the DAC have given their advice on the structure and materials to be used.

The next part of the process will be to have detailed drawings done and to obtain the necessary permissions from the various authorities. This is a fairly lengthy process but during this time grant applications will be made. Until we reach the tendering stage of the process we will not have a clear idea of the cost of the work but it is hoped that a substantial portion of the cost will be covered by grants.

We would like to thank all those who have been involved with this project in the past. Whilst it has taken a long time to get to this stage all the work undertaken over recent years has been invaluable in reaching the point where we now have plans that are both achievable and affordable and will meet the needs of the church in the years ahead.

John Waller