

All Saints church, Burstwick – search for a community use

Following the closure of All Saints church as a place of worship, the Diocese of York and the Church Commissioners are seeking to find a new owner for the building who can realise a sustainable new use that will secure its long-term future. Any new use would need to be compatible with its Grade I listed status, its historic significance and it being a former place of worship.

The policy recommendation in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council development plan prefers to see community buildings remain in community use before they will consider a change of use, so we are appealing to the community in the hope that a sustainable new use for the community can be found for the building. Your Parish Council has agreed to support us in publicising this opportunity, but we need to make clear from the outset that we are looking for an individual or group who is both willing and able to take full responsibility for All Saints through its freehold disposal, not simply suggestions or good ideas for the use of the building.

The building will need to be returned to a good state of repair, the cost of which has been variously estimated as between £250,000 to £300,000. Repairs, renovation and alterations would need planning permission and Listed Building Consent and would need to be completed by heritage-accredited trades using appropriate techniques and materials.

In addition to the essential repairs needed to bring the building back into a good state of repair, an adequate long term income stream will be needed to cover the cost of insurance, utilities, ongoing routine maintenance and any operating costs linked to a new use. Both the Diocese and the Church Commissioners will need to be convinced by a robust business plan if the building is to pass into community use before settling its future in this way.

We would be happy to speak to anyone who feels that they could be the new owner of this historic church. In the first instance please contact Angus Deas, the Closed Churches Officer for the Diocese of York, by email angus.deas@yorkdiocese.org