

From: Cyn
Sent: 14 November 2019 17:25
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Holy Trinity Church Milford

For the attention of The Church Commissioners

cc. The Rt. Rev. Libby, Bishop of Derby - by email

Dear Sirs,

My name is Cynthia Varney, one of the Church Wardens at Holy Trinity Church, Milford, and have been a member of the congregation since I was a child.

It saddens me to write this letter, having worked most of my life to maintain the Church, and last year was awarded the Bishop's Badge for services to the Church.

I am strongly against the proposal to close Holy Trinity. I voted against closure at the PCC meeting with the Area Dean and the Archdeacon on April 26th 2018.

Furthermore, I have never been at a PCC meeting where we discussed or agreed a merger with Hazelwood Church. Having discussed this with my fellow Warden, Francine Franklin, she also has no recollection of such a decision. Neither is there any reference to such a decision in any Minutes.

I and my fellow Church Warden were very shocked to be told by third parties about the Public Notice of proposed closure in the Derby Evening Telegraph, only days after our Harvest Supper and the day after Sunday service. There was no mention of the closure proposal at that service.

The open meetings held last year at Holy Trinity to inform the village of the proposal to close the Church and gauge reactions were well attended, and all who attended were in favour of keeping the Church open. This led to the formation of a community group who have worked very hard since then, applying for grants and contacting various groups of people, with a view to increasing community bookings, such as scout groups and dance classes, as well as usual services. The group has recently received a small grant to help with internal kitchen repairs.

I feel it is important to realise that there has been a huge effort to support the Church since those meetings, with monthly music evenings, as well as regular concerts and the annual Harvest Supper.

I would urge you to halt the current proposal, to give the community group a proper chance to continue their events and develop their ideas.

Both myself and Mrs Franklin would also request further information as to how a merger with St John's Hazelwood came to be included as part of the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Cynthia Varney

Submitted on Mon, 18/11/2019 - 16:03

1. Query or comment?

2. Which Scheme or Order?

Which case is your representation regarding? **Milford Holy Trinity**

3. Write your submission

Your Name (required) Sandra Barker

Nature of interest in case Parishioner

Is your representation for or against the draft scheme or order (required) Against

Representation:

I am against the closure of this church as Milford people should have close access to a church and it would be in the village's interest to keep the consecrated church and have the building available for other community activities too.

I am most unimpressed by the way the church has conducted itself throughout this process. I went to the initial meeting over a year ago to talk about the future of Holy Trinity. Frankly I was appalled by the attitude of the church staff there who clearly thought this was a done deal and did not seem too happy to find a full church of local people who wanted to find a way to keep the church open.

I know that the local level of support has not been as high as would have been expected at that meeting but never the less people have put time and effort to try and get the church off the ground but it now seems that was all a waste of time. As far as I know, without any notice to the local congregation from the priest in charge, a notice was quietly put up on the church door to say the church were going ahead with the closure anyway. This church is a listed building it is in a World Heritage Site and is very important to some members of this Village who have been associated with it for many years. Frankly the Church of England seems to me to be more of a self-serving bureaucratic organisation concerned mainly with keeping itself going for the sake of the people who work for it it rather than being there for the parishioners that it is supposed to serve. May I suggest that if you want to attract people into your view of Christianity then the church's actions should be taken in line with what the church preaches.

PLEASE NOTE

This representation should also be taken has to represent the views of Ivan Thomas who lives at the same address as me and you also has an interest in this church particularly the organ which he paid to have brought back into service expecting that the church might be open for some time yet.

From: Sian Hallam
Sent: 18 November 2019 13:02
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Closing the Holy Trinity of Milford Church

Dear Katie Lowe

I am writing as a representative of my family of seven who live on Hopping Hill in Milford. We all agree that we would like the beautiful and historic church at Milford to remain open. As parishioners for ten years we have attended many services at the church and more recently, as a result of the community pulling together to keep the church open, musical events which have been truly life enriching and wonderful.

We feel that the church still offers a place of worship and spirituality to a wide section of the community who would not be able to attend Holbrook or Hazlewood, especially in view of the local bus services.

The church is becoming an increasingly important "hub" for the village, improving social cohesion and support for parishioners. Indeed these current turbulent times, when people are scared by very local events such as the River Derwent bursting its banks and leaving people in crisis, may be the exact time when people need some place to connect with God, as well as a community venture and venue in the light of so many village amenities such as the shop and garden centre which included a small grocery shop, shutting down in recent years.

The church and its parishioners have not had enough time to rethink and renew its potential and role in the community prior to its proposed closure.

Please listen to our words.

Yours Sincerely

Sian Hallam
Tim Hallam
Oliver Hallam
Edmund Hallam
Conrad Hallam
Felix Hallam

Against

From: clerk
Sent: 22 November 2019 10:19
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: RE: Church of Holy Trinity, Milford

Good Morning Katie,

I have clarified the position of the Council regarding the Holy Trinity at Milford:-

The Council are against this scheme for closure for regular public worship as a number of parishioners have raised concerns regarding the closure with the Town Council they feel upset and distressed that their local church of worship maybe closed.

If the decision is to close the Church the Town Council would like to request that this is delayed for a period of 6 months so worshippers can relocate.

Kind Regards

Emma Smith
Town Clerk
Belper Town Council, St John's Chapel, The Butts, Belper, DE56 1HX
01773 822116
www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

The Council's Privacy Statement can be viewed at
<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/general-privacy-notice-2018.pdf>

In favour

From: Milford Community
Sent: 11 November 2019 13:33
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Holy Trinity Milford

Dear Katie,

Re: Representation Holy Trinity Church, Milford

I am writing as Chair of Milford Church Community Forum regarding the draft Pastoral Scheme to merge the parish of Milford and Hazlewood. When initial community consultation took place the forum was started. The aim of the group is to support the congregation of Holy Trinity and find alternative streams of revenue for the building. The forum, along with the congregation, have mixed feelings about the closure of the building for regular worship however we recognise that the church is no longer currently financially sustainable and that this is an opportunity to move forward. It is therefore with heavy hearts that we wish to register that we support this proposal.

Over the last year the church has held, and continues to host, a range of community events. We have recently had a Discovery Day (attended by approximately 70 people) – funded by the Derwent Valley World Heritage Team. Community members were able to take part in art activities which explored aspects of historic nature the local area. There is also a monthly music night hosted by a professional musician. Derby Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing at the church in December. We also hosted a community consultation day in January. This is above and beyond the range of church services which Rev. Nicky Fenton has officiated. All of these events have been supported by a wide demographic from the community.

Due to the community interest and support for the building, the historic link it has with the Strutt family and its place on the Heritage at Risk register we would be interested in working in partnership with the Derby Diocesan Board of Finance on the second scheme, Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal). We would also be willing to make any verbal representation to the Committee should a hearing be held.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Cynthia Troche

Dawn Baker

Gail Rowe

Howard Morris

Kate Rawson

Rev. Nicky Fenton

From: natasha.clough
Sent: 15 November 2019 13:53
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Pastoral reorganisation - Milford Church

Hi Katie – in response to your mail.

I have been a member of the Holy Trinity Church now for 15 years, it has been a journey, I got married there, my children were Christened there and my daughter had her first communion at Milford Church. Also I was confirmed there along with my Mum and Dad. So yes the church holds many fond memories and has been a massive part of our family life. We've had fabulous times there, my dad helped to paint the walls etc and as I have now lost him it's a great comfort to know that he is still part of the church.

That said, the church is poorly attended with only a few individuals that are able to help out in the church and organise events and services. The building is in a dreadful state and needs a considerable amount of money spending on it to return it to its former glory. I think the time has come to take the burden from the PCC and pass to the diocese. I don't feel that there is any more I or we can do, we have tried.

I always thought that if we had events and made the church welcoming the people would come, but despite a large village that has not been the case. It has become more of a burden to me (awful to say that about a church) than a place of reflection.

For my continuing Religious journey I would get so much more from a church with a larger congregation, and so with a sad heart I agree with progressing to formal closure.

I will continue my religious journey at an alternative church, and add value to that church wherever I can.

Yours

Natasha Hayhurst

Natasha Clough | Director of Specialist ITS Sales, V&N Specialists and Digital Inclusion – Public Sector | BT Plc
Our Values: Personal | Simple | Brilliant



In favour

Sent: 07 November 2019 08:33
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Closure of Milford Church

Dear Katie

My wife Eileen and I are very sad that it is necessary to close the Church at Milford.

All will be welcome to join us at Hazelwood.

Kind regards John

From: Katie Lowe
Date: 07/11/2019 08:48 (GMT+00:00)
Subject: RE: Closure of Milford Church

Dear John

Thank you for your email. Although sad that the church is proposed for closure please can you confirm that you are either in favour of the draft scheme, against the draft scheme or offering a comment?

I look forward to hearing from you.

With all best wishes

Katie
Katie Lowe
Pastoral Case Officer
Tel: 020 7898 1737

7 November 2020

Mr Chadwick confirmed that he and his wife were in favour of the closure.

From: Alan Squires
Sent: 24 October 2019 12:10
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Milford C of E church =. proposed closure

Dear Madam

I am writing in response to the notices proposing the closure of the above church in Milford, Derbyshire.

It is a known fact that the congregation at this church is at sustainable levels and thus I can understand the requirement for closure.

We have had a public discussion with the Archdeacon's office and at that time they declared that they have been unable to locate the title deeds to the land.

The site for the church was donated to the church by the Strutt family(possible Jedediah Strutt). It is imperative that this title deed be found.

All other sites of land and buildings that we are aware of, that Strutt donated to public bodies included positive covenants that the land/buildings were to be retained for public use. This has been demonstrated in the council offices in Belper that were given to the town, the council has closed the office but cannot sell it. Also the Strutt School which was closed some 10 years or more ago could not be sold by the county council so has been retained and gifted to a charitable trust which now runs it as a community centre.

This being the case, I do not as such have an objection to the closure but I would object if there were any proposals by the Church of England to try and dispose of this property on the open market and would suggest that the church look at any possible ways that the building could be gifted to a local group which may be able to adapt the property for a community use, as Milford does not have a village hall at present. It could even be used for multiple uses including religious meetings.

I would welcome your thoughts as to the future use of the building.

Regards

Alan Squires
Milford

From: sarah hinds
Sent: 16 November 2019 22:00
To: Katie Lowe
Subject: Holy Trinity Church Milford

Hi Katie,

I'm getting in touch about the possible closure of Holy Trinity Church in Milford. I'd like to put my view forward about keeping the church open as a resource for the community. I run a monthly music night there where local musicians get to play a set of music, followed by an unplugged open mic session where people share music and poetry. People enjoy these sessions and it would be great if the church could remain open so that events like this can continue. You can see the previous posts on my Facebook page about these evenings.
<https://www.facebook.com/sarah.hinds.391>

Also, my daughter would be interested in setting up a community café in the back room in the future once she finishes her study in artisan food as she would love to set up something locally that supports the community.

Whether the church remains a place of worship or not it would make sense to keep it available for the community as there is no real community centre in the Milford area.

All the best,
Sarah Hinds, Jasmine Cope-Hinds and Peter Visscher

Supplementary comments

Supplementary views from Belper Town Council

To: Katie Lowe

Subject: RE: Benefice of Hazelwood, Holbrook and Milford - action required please

Good Evening Katie,

The Council have no further comments to make other than could an extension be granted to allow users to relocate prior to closure?

Kind Regards

Emma Smith

Town Clerk

Belper Town Council, St John's Chapel, The Butts, Belper, DE56 1HX

01773 822116

www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

Supplementary views of the Bishop

To: Katie Lowe

Cc: Nigel Sherratt; Archdeacon of Derby

Subject: RE: Benefice of Hazelwood, Holbrook and Milford

Dear Katie

Thank you for your email, and the opportunity to respond to the further comment.

I've checked with the priest-in-charge who has confirmed that the only other user group finished using the church for meetings in December 2019. A short period of, for example, two months, would be appreciated to give time for a final service and community event to be arranged, but that is all. It is already at least three months since Belper Town Council requested a six months' delay. A further two months would tie in with their request.

We want to conclude this well, and feel such a time scale, if closure were approved, would allow that.

With my thanks, and continuing prayers,
+Libby