

Ref: 2020-048715 **Church:** Coton: St Peter
Diocese: Ely **Archdeaconry:** Cambridge
Created By: Miss Julia Hall (19/02/2020) **Contact Tel.:** 01954 211723
Status: Proposal in preparation

Statement of Needs

General information

Coton is a small village of around 400 houses close to, and to the west, of Cambridge. There is a road through the village connecting to Madingley Road to the north and Barton Road to the south, both main routes into Cambridge. The church and the main residential area is to the west of this road. The church is set in a prominent position overlooking the village green in the Conservation area of Coton and is close to the Church of England Primary School. The church is used for services almost every Sunday but the congregation is now small and elderly. It is available for weddings and funerals and also for baptisms which normally take place during a regular Sunday service. It is always open during the day for anyone who wants to visit or think in peace and quiet. The school usually holds services in the church at festivals and sometimes visits as part of their religious instruction.

The churchyard is still open for burials and for interment of ashes. There is a permissive footpath through the churchyard which is frequently used by walkers.

What is needed?

To be relevant the church needs not only to provide church services and to maintain the building but also to engage with the community including those who are not committed Christians; this includes showing that we care for the environment. Recently a pollinator group has been started in the village, Coton Loves Pollinators; they have recruited many of the village organisations and are anxious for the church to be involved particularly given the prominent space the church occupies in the centre of the village, the church needs to engage with this.

The churchyard is still open for burials and interments of ashes but is getting very full. In particular the space reserved for interments of ashes has very few spaces left and we need to extend it.

The proposal

We are proposing to plant small areas in the churchyard with pollinator friendly plants as shown in the Phase 1 Planting Plan February 2020 and the accompanying plant list and pictures, and to introduce a No Mow management system for areas on the south side of the church shown in No Mow Plan where the grass would be allowed to grow long and cut only in July and November; the file Pollinator Planting Areas shows how these areas look currently.

We are also proposing to extend the area reserved for interment of cremated remains as shown in the Churchyard Plan ashes Space extension and the Ashes Space extension picture file.

Why?

Cooperating with the pollinator group will show the willingness of the church to take an active part in village life and to encourage biodiversity and care for God's creation as suggested on the Church of England website here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/biodiversity>. In addition the pollinator group has been promised plants by the local garden centre and will help with volunteer labour to do the planting, but they are very anxious to get this done as soon as possible as an encouragement and example to villagers as to what they can do in their own gardens to help.

The current space for interment of ashes is almost full and we need to reserve extra space so that we can continue to give the local community the opportunity to have a local memorial to their loved ones.

Justification

This work should not have any impact on the significance of the church.