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## **All Saints, Norton Fitzwarren**

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Dear Mr Clark

I am writing to you on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Norton Fitzwarren to inform you of elements of current plans for the improvement of the interior of All Saints Church.

As I am sure you are aware, an oak-framed and glazed screen was installed and dedicated in the 1970s to your late father, Arthur, to complete the enclosure of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor ringing chamber, which had until then been open onto the nave of the church. An engraved brass plaque is affixed just above the doors beneath, recording the screen's dedication to the memory of your late father's exceptional 26 years' service as Treasurer.

The improvements to the church's interior include not only the installation of much-needed lavatory facilities and an updated kitchen/servery to facilitate the use of the church by the wider village community, but also greatly improved access for our award-winning bell-ringers into the ringing chamber, and better ventilation into the church tower itself.

The PCC's church architect has advised that the glass in the screen, in place now for over 50 years, should be removed in order to permit proper ventilation, and reduce the risk of condensation and dampness within the ancient tower, threatening the integrity of the structures within. Removing the glass will have added benefits to the bell-ringers, for whom the ringing chamber is insufferably hot during high summer; and removing the frame itself, and returning the balustrade beneath to its pre-1970s position, will free up the necessary space to accommodate the staircase from the ground up to the ringing chamber. At present the bell-ringers have to navigate up and down a perilously near-vertical ladder. These alterations are important to the PCC's plans to secure the long-term well-being of the tower and to enhance the conditions for the bell-ringers.

The PCC will shortly be submitting details of its plans to the Diocese of Bath & Wells. Please do not hesitate telephoning me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely