

## **Statement of Need for St Luke's Church (16.07)**

### **Project: New Front Entrance**

Since 1 October 2004, as enacted under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 ("the 1995 Act"), St Lukes church has been under obligation to draw up and implement plans to improve the access to our buildings.

Currently to access both the main church building, you have to enter via steps and at a gradient which is now contrary to the 1995 Act. Therefore in response to the change in law in October 2004, the PCC asked the church's architect, Russell Taylor, to draw up plans to improve access to our building.

The PCC also asked Russell to draw up plans which would make the church building more visible from the road, and more welcoming to those coming into the church building.

Russell drew the plans which are enclosed with this Statement.

The front entrance will change in the following ways. There will be two possible ways to the front door: one via a new extended ramp, with a level area half-way up; the second via a set of steps. This will make it much easier not only for those who have wheel-chairs or walking frames/sticks, but for families with push-chairs. We have a number of elderly folk who need help to get into church; we have a number of families with young children, babies and therefore need to either help their children up the steps, or lift a push-chair up the steps.

The proposed new entrances will also make St Lukes more welcoming. Presently not everybody finds the entrance to the church easily identifiable, and some local residents have mentioned that they have not spotted the church building! The new entrance would give St Lukes a higher profile.

The PCC approved these plans in principle in 2005, and appealed to the congregation for funds. By April 2006 there was sufficient funds for PCC to formally approve the plans, and to start the process. The PCC will be applying for planning permission from Camden Council as well.

These are the three reasons- legal, aesthetic and practical- why we have planned this project at this time.

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**29 AUG 2006**