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| **Statement of Needs** |

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|  | **General information** |
|  | Huntshaw is a village and civil parish located two and a half miles NNE of Great Torrington, in the Torridge district, in the county of Devon, England.**The Parish**This is a very compact, rural parish, consisting of a collection of small hamlets and isolated dwellings. A significant increase to the population occurred about 15 years ago when two adjacent farms were sold up and the properties converted to 13 separate dwellings.  The population is now 180,but consists of predominately older; semi retired or retired people with very few young families.The parish mostly consists of farms and farmland, although there are a number of small to medium size enterprises, including holiday lets and B & B’s, mainly attached to or part of properties with resident owners. There are also a small number of second homes.**The Congregation**A relatively new morning All Age service is held on the second Sunday of the month, attracting 15 – 20 adults and a handful of children. Evensong is on the fourth Sunday of the month, with an average attendance of approx. 10 adults. The former with a good spread of ages, and the Evensong predominately consisting of older people, half of whom live outside the parish, but nevertheless having strong ties to Huntshaw Church. The evening service service uses the Book of Common Prayer, which debate revealed to be important to the older generation.The numbers, having been in sharp decline, prompted a debate in the Parish regarding the future of the Church. This instigated the less traditional all age service and the numbers attending have been the most, almost in living memory!There is perhaps one funeral a year, and other events, such as baptism, wedding, renewal of vows are somewhat rare.There is disabled access to the church.**The Friends Group**The debate on the future led to a very active Friends group being formed, with ambitious plans for the maintenance of the church and improvement of facilities generally. There is also a plan to use the Church tower to bring much needed broadband to the community. Consequently the Friends have a church social programme to match their ambitions including joint events with Alverdiscott Parish.**Outreach**There is the general outreach run by the Mission Community, in addition to a number of fund raising activities which are important community events. In particular, a booklet has been written on the history of the church, so there was a book launch  a Flower Festival, BBQ’s, the ‘Harvest Supper’ in late September and Carols in December. Other more ad hoc fund raising also goes on during the year. “The (Alverdiscott and Huntshaw) Rag” a monthly publication, is distributed to every home in the parish and details events and church services, as well as a column from the Team Rector. The ‘Mary Rag’ has also been launched to keep parishioners and friends up to date with events and progress re funding.**Huntshaw PCC**Meeting four times a year and Chaired by the Team Rector, with a current membership of six lay people, again, it had been just three including the Treasurer. But we still have no Church Wardens. Funding is tight, but there is a small capital investment that ameliorates that to a small degree.Currently the Church has a padlock on the outer door. The combination is known to most users of the Church. At the last PCC meeting it was decided that the church should be open between 9.00am and 5.00pm. A member of the PCC is enquiring into automatic timing devices. Safeguarding was also discussed and plans made to ensure that no-one is ever alone in an unlocked church. |
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|  | **What is needed?** |
|  | When the sun is not shining the difficulties in using the church are more obvious. The traditional wooden pews will seat approximately 100 and as under pew electric heating has been installed. This is used during services and other occasions when necessary. The congregation can now sit in comfort even in cold weather.  There has been insufficient time to see if the pipe organ is suffering less in the cold damp atmosphere now that there is sporadic heating. Refreshments are served at the end of each service with the water coming from a stand pipe in the car park, some 100 metres from the main door. Slightly less distance is involved to pour waste water away into the outside drains. Lavatory facilities are provided by the adjacent village hall. The last Quinquennial Inspection (QI)  was 2016.The main need is to ‘fight’ the damp and make the atmosphere in Winter more acceptable and to in doing this we must ensure that the church is watertight .The brief for the architect was the work deemed necessary in the QI which is designed to meet this objective plus  making sound the floor in the vestry and the floor under the rear three pews in the Nave. We propose that these three pews should not be replaced to make a useful space for prayer, worship, for very young children attending the All Ages Service and for social events. The pews are Victorian and have no particular historical significance.  |
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|  | **The proposal** |
|  | We are proposing to bid for grants to cover most of the work specified  and  are already in discussions with Coastal Recycling Community Fund, ChurchCare and the Heritage Lottery Fund.  |
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|  | **Why?** |
|  | The maintenance work now definitely needs doing and another pressure for doing the work now is that an excellent source of local funding will be coming to an end soon. These funders, Coastal Recycling Community Fund, have in the past provided funding for the village hall and for the electric heating in the church. They are sympathetic to an approach for a considerable contribution to this work. .Organising ourselves to meet their latest deadline in September was a priority. We are also approaching the ChurchCare ecclesiastical organisation and the Heritage Lottery Fund but cannot actually formally approach them until January 2019.The main prompter for the proposals was the threat to close the church and the sudden realisation by the local community of the effects of this loss. The response has been heart-warming and with every event run by The Friends and every increase in congregation it has become more obvious that St Mary Magdalene has a place in the heart of the community and that those from further afield  are drawn to its ambience . Having an open space in the church, coming from the removal of three pews will make changes in the structure of worship possible.The addition of the aerial will mean that internet reception will be possible in the church, which again opens the door to new possibilities. |
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|  | **Justification** |
|  | The PCC and The Friends of St Mary Magdalene cannot envisage any harm to the significant aspects outlined in the Statement of Significance and strongly feel that the acceptance of these proposals will result in public benefit in all matters consistent with the church’s role as a place of worship and missionThe Church’s current carbon footprint is small. A ban on single-use plastic has been implemented. There might be a slight increase in the use of electricity.  |

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