

# Building for the future

## Why?

We have a continuing vision for relational, spiritual and kingdom growth as a church<sup>1</sup>. While continuing to prioritise and seek God's Presence our near future most likely includes Church Planting and Messy Church as ways of reaching out to our communities.

However- the 'mother church', our people and resource base need to grow before we can do this. We need to 'strengthen our stakes and enlarge our tent before we go beyond our boundaries'. (Is 54:2f). We need more small groups, leaders, people with gifts...

... and we need premises that better serve our purposes of reaching out to and inviting in our community. We need a building that people, especially youngsters, walk into and feel 'wow!'. That gives a first impression of light, welcome, contemporary space, beauty and glory to God<sup>2</sup>. We need a better flow of people into our building, around the sanctuary and during coffee. We need a variety of sized rooms that the community will want to use and rent<sup>3</sup>, especially for our burgeoning children's and family work in the Centre. We need a sanctuary that works with, not against, the dynamic of worship we seek.

Imagine a light, bright, downstairs Centre with dividing panels for increased flexibility, a new mid-sized room and new lighting. Imagine walking into the church through glass doors, past recessed toilets and into the *back* of a sanctuary with space, more capacity, a coffee zone and a lifting worship dynamic. Imagine having a high quality Café Lounge for midweek meetings.

This congregation has a history of *vision* with its buildings and has always seen them as a means to an end: to reach out.

Now it is time for the next phase of that history. Please see our 'Building for the future' document and read on for more information.

<sup>1</sup> See our 'Continuing Vision For Growth' as adopted at May 2014 Church Meeting, available near this display

<sup>2</sup> Rather than the first impression of being corralled by toilets!

<sup>3</sup> Currently we have rooms for ten to 15 people max, but no mid sized rooms (for 15-35 people)- hence the enlargement of Room One, splitting of the Centre Hall and creation of a mid sized coffee lounge upstairs.



# The past

The original chapel and school room was built in 1824



By 1976 the old chapel was falling down. A small group of members had a vision for something more and as attendance grew in the early 1980s the vision of a large building became clear. It was a huge step of faith and was to be done in stages.

First the sanctuary



Then the transformation of the lower car park into “The Centre”.



But this was never seen as ‘the end’. The building was to fit and facilitate the vision: growth. Into the community. Relationally. Spiritually. And growth and experience of the kingdom of God.



# The future

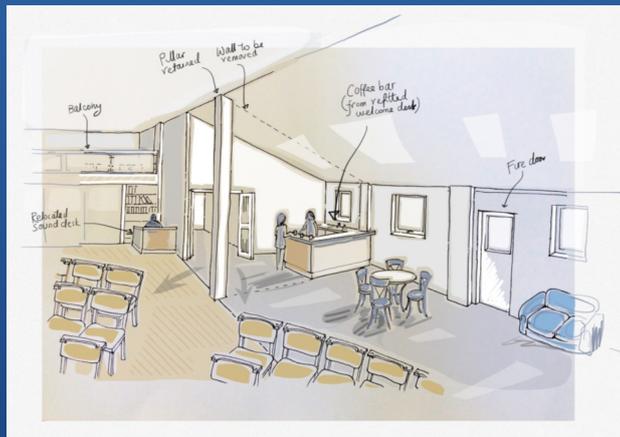
Great care has been taken not to restrict the future in our current plans. Ultimately our goal is to add another (or possibly two) balconies to further increase seating and to take the roof up to its apex for the best worship dynamic and light and space. Many other ideas have been considered and are not hindered.

Here, though, is what we believe is the best return and improvement for investment at this stage



< Entering through glass doors into a more spacious corridor, past recessed toilets into rear of sanctuary

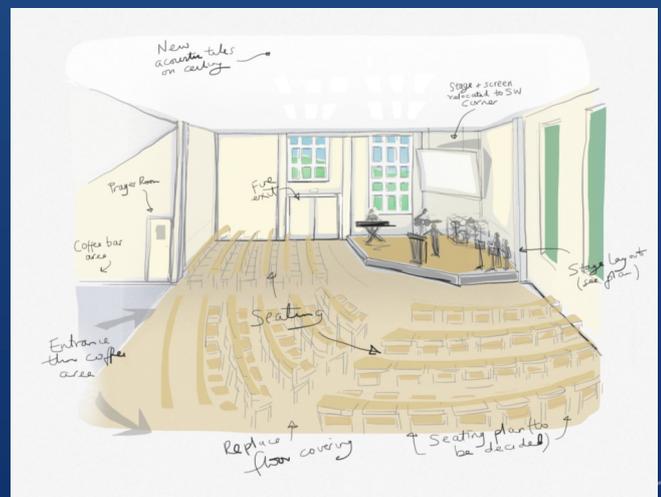
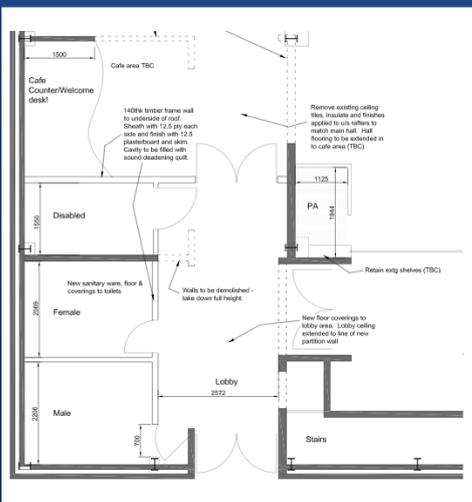
Crèche and Café Lounge to the right >



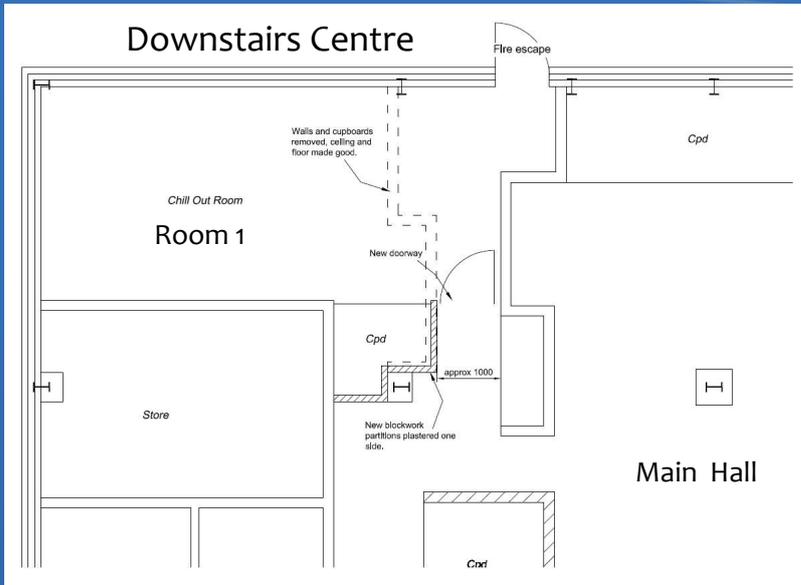
< flow through into rear of light, airy, coffee serving area and sanctuary

Facing S/W corner (with coffee and exit area to rear) v

More detailed plan of toilet area v



# The future contd

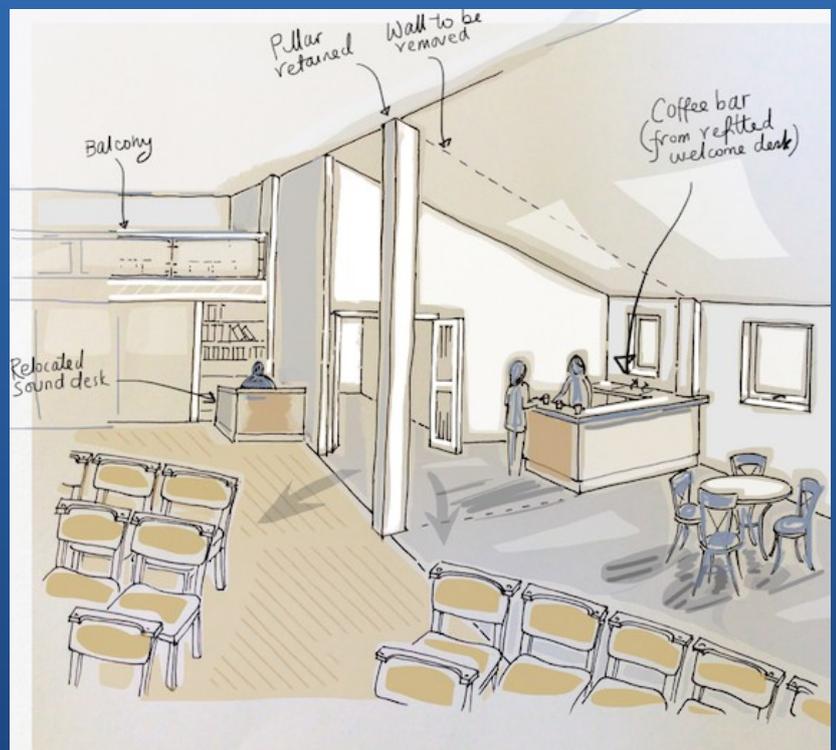


< Modified Room One at rear of downstairs Centre allowing for mid-sized groups

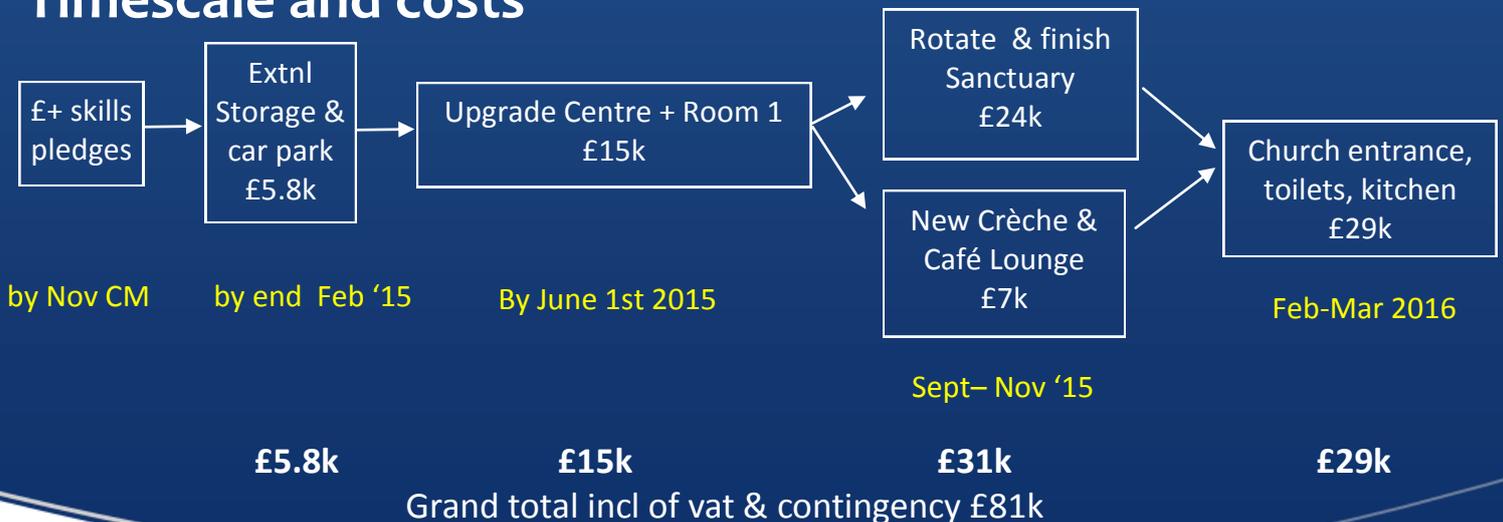
< Main hall will have folding sound-proof partition across its width

Rear of church, flow, sound desk v

Front of church v



## Timescale and costs



# How do we pay for this? Some questions

Times are tight, and they are for churches as well. We are no exception. However, 'income' and 'capital' are very different. Many may be giving as much as they feel they can, *regularly*, to the church (ie 'income')- but we are equally aware that many are still able to give as a 'one off' or towards a targeted project (ie 'capital'). Indeed we feel that many *will* want to and that "*where there is the vision there is God's pro-vision*". We will ask people to pray about what they should give/pledge, willingly, as a one-off(s) on top of their regular giving. Some from our past may want to give as well.

The beauty and safeguard of it all is- if the money is not forthcoming then we simply don't proceed to the next stage of this project (see previous page for stages). In the end God's people make choices about what kind of a church they want this to be and what they are prepared to give towards that vision- and that giving will define what we are. You...we all... will define what we are for the future. Your leaders want to encourage you to 'go for it', though, and help us provide premises fit for purpose for our next season, without reservation (and without coercion).

## Is £81,000 a lot?

Well- we started off with figures of £30k in our heads and just wish we could achieve some significant change for that amount! However, one part of the building interacts with another and this is the very best value we feel we can get for significant change.

We are planning to do as much of the work as we can ourselves- not only for the saving it gives but also the sense of community there is in working together. It will be an exciting and relationship-building time! Please even plan your holidays so you can come build with us! Without this saving of labour the project would cost twice as much.

Hence we really do need people... you... to pledge your *time* and *skills* as well as your *financial* gifts for us to see the reward we are looking for in this project being completed. Bottom line, though: we will only proceed as far as the firm pledges of money and skills permit.

Just think about how much it costs to modify, decorate or extend your house and you will see we will be getting a lot for our money. Also, churches nearby to us with much smaller congregations are seeking to raise similar amounts. You may also know of churches of similar size that are tackling projects around or over a million pounds!

## Play your part

Please see the 'Play Your Part' document as to how you can give your time, talents and finances to this and be sure to Gift Aid your money if you are a tax payer. Only Ian Kelland and Andrew James (our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer) will know who gives what and they will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.



# The Project Management Group and who does what

Up to this point the Leadership Team, Gary and Ewen, a Buildings Development Group and, recently, a Project Management Group have played their part in looking at what is feasible, getting the plans, budgets, timescales, presentation and publicity together.

Once the plans go to the Church Meeting of Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> September the Project Management Group will take over and be responsible for the implementation of this project and all questions and issues should be directed to them. The Project Management Group consists of:



## Colin Berry- Chair

Keeping the plan together and on time. Cracking the whip.  
Buildings regs.

manhattandawn1@outlook.com H: 01823 442 064



## Gary Birch– Communications

Communicating in and out. Liaising with LT and Church.  
Following up on pledges of skills/time.

gary@creechbc.co.uk O: 01823 443 692



## David Pengilly- Site Foreman

Overseeing deliveries to site and managing/motivating the  
team of volunteers.

pgdavid49@gmail.com H: 01823 442845

**Jon Hughes- Consultant to the PMG on  
technical aspects**



# Take a tour, see the reality, catch the vision

The week beginning Monday 15th September there will be tours around the church talking you through the plans and attempting to answer your questions. The tours will take about half an hour. Tour times are:

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2.30pm
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 8pm
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am, 2.30pm, 7.30pm

## FAQs

### What other publicity do I need to see?

- “Building for the future”- Catch the Vision flyer (overall vision)
- “Building for the future”- Play your part flyer (How to get involved. Pledging finances and skills)
- “A continuing vision for growth” (our continuing vision document)

All these documents are near this display. *This* display is also available in pdf format on our church website or by request/email from the church office.

### Can't we just paint it?

We could- but the buildings are now at a stage when they need more attention and fine-tuning for the future. They were never built to be static. And, God deserves our very best. There is much in the Old Testament about creating the place for worship of God to the very highest standards. If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

### Do we need to spend so much money?

The Centre really needs bringing up to standard and more flexibility. There is no way around that but to spend money and make changes. Moving walls and putting in partitions costs. We need more ‘room-size’ flexibility. The sanctuary needs greater flexibility. There is simply no way around it but to spend something as an investment for the future. We would do it in our homes (unless we have run out of energy- which is quite telling) so how much more so the place where we worship God (Hag 1:9).

Our hope is that it will, in time, pay for itself by bringing others in and serving our community. However- it needs to be noted that £81k is actually a small sum for what we are getting. It is tremendous value for money. Think how much it costs to make changes to your home.

### Wouldn't this money be better spent on other, more needy, parts of the world?

Our troubled world does need our care, prayer and finances. Indeed- it is getting it. The church has already made gifts to some of the current needs and individuals are responding with their giving. We give quite a large proportion of our income to elsewhere...

... and our nation/culture has its own needs, too. They may not be ‘material’ but we are just as, if not, more poor: our culture is desperate for a touch from God and is so hardened to it. If churches are not flexible and forward thinking now there may be pretty few left in years to come. Yes- we have our needs, too. We desperately need the gospel, saving, and relevant churches.

### Who are we doing this for?

Obviously it's partly for our future longevity. But not only that. We are doing this so we stand out to our community and they want to come in. We ought to have ‘your next visit is our success’ written above our door! We are doing this to serve them- particularly the youth and children who need the right influence we can bring.

And we are doing this for the Lord. ‘Make everything as I have commanded’ (Ex 31:6, 35:10, Hebs 8:5). Things need to be done right, well and ‘excellently’ for him.



## Can I get a progress report?

We will update those on the church email and Notice Sheet every few weeks as to how fundraising and skill pledges are going. We'd rather not have a barometer outside the church!

## I know someone who would like to get involved

We can give you or send them by post or email our flyers and this document. Just let the office know

## I want to talk through my finances with someone

Please speak to Ian Kelland, our Treasurer. He is available on 01460 259159

## I'm not sure I fully agree with the need for or designs of this project

Truth be told not everyone is going to agree on everything. But, in the end, churches must move forward and leaders are there to help this happen otherwise no one goes anywhere! Our leaders have done the best they can in seeking God, applying wisdom and equipping us to be a 'building for the future'. Imperfect though it may be- we invite you to play your part and build with us for the future of this congregation and its ministry in this area

## It's too small! Doesn't this limit us for the future?

We did look at more ambitious plans (putting in balconies, lifts and stairs between levels, going up to the apex in the sanctuary, fitting more toilets etc)- but these were all *stunningly* expensive for what you actually got in return. We were also not confident that the church was ready for a project stretching into hundreds of thousands. We felt it right and wise to tackle this level of project first and then measure whether it raised the enthusiasm (and, in time, the funding) for more. This project is a high rate of return, reward, 'short-term-win' for our investment. And £81k is still significantly more than we initially hoped for- we were hoping to make major changes for £30k!

As mentioned- great care has been taken that none of these designs preclude or waste future development potential. If we were to immediately go straight to our 'dream destination' we would have spent only about £1,800 unnecessarily.

Time will tell about our buildings here and whether we need significantly more seats or whether 'giving birth' through church planting caps our numbers.

## Who is going to choose the colour of the paint?

A Décor Group have been given the remit of choosing two or three 'light, bright, contemporary space' colour schemes for the sanctuary- one of which the Church Meeting will accept.

## What are the safeguards and safety mechanisms in place over this project?

As mentioned, the bottom line is: if we do not receive the necessary pledges of finances and skills/time (these are equally important), we do not proceed to the next stage of the project.

## Give away what you've got?!

The Church Meeting will also discuss the suggestion that we give away some money to a nearby SWBA project first. This may seem like madness when we are trying to raise money for our buildings! It is certainly not something we *have* to do- but this is an opportunity for us to grow in the principles of generosity, faith, 'sowing' and blessing others. (2 Cor 9:4ff) It's a spiritual act. This is not about money and premises. It's about kingdom principles.

## Will we have to move out of the building or not use certain rooms?

Much work can be done with minimal disruption to our normal usage. If we can coordinate flooring and ceiling in the sanctuary for the same week the sanctuary may not be out of use on a Sunday at all. Youth and midweek activities may need to use the village hall some weeks and sanctuary and Centre may look a bit disrupted when we use them- but the PMG are hoping to streamline it well.

