



These pages summarise James’s talk on HTH Sunday Live on 1 August when he explained what’s happening with our Building for the Future project. If you prefer, you can watch the video [here](#).

1. One project, three parts

Building for the Future (BTF) is about equipping us to continue to play our part in building God’s kingdom in Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond. The project has three parts:

- a new building
- an improved site and welcome, and
- some more resource to grow our ministry.

2. Progress so far

This is where we are now:

Improved site and welcome:	Site, lobby, coffee lounge	✓
More resource to grow our ministry:	New curate already working	✓
New building:	Planning permission	✓
	Diocesan approval	✓
	Money raised or pledged	✓
	No contractor = significant delay	✗

Improved site and welcome

We’ve resurfaced the whole site, created new parking spaces, removed the ramp to the main church door, improved the external lighting, and installed cycle racks and great new signage.

And, with the help of some amazing volunteers, we’ve transformed the lobby and coffee lounge.

More resource to grow our ministry

Jonny Frost has already started as our Curate. He brings huge experience in lots of areas of ministry, especially in building relationships with local communities. As well as learning how to be a vicar, he'll be helping us develop our work in Hurdsfield and beyond.

New building

We've obtained planning permission from Cheshire East and approval from the Diocese (many church projects never even get this far). These permissions remain in place for at least two more years. We've removed the old portacabins, as required by Cheshire East.

We've an agreed design for the new building which will meet our needs and provide great space for Hurdsfield people to use.



3. New building will be delayed

Since we first started thinking about a new building, in March 2019, our BTF Project Team (James, John Burt, Jenni Hardy and Jo Gregory) has been working with Swift, an Adlington firm specialising in lightweight buildings. We were expecting to sign a contract shortly. On 30 June, regrettably, Swift withdrew its offer to build our building. It was unwilling to take on the risks associated with the foundation design (we're building in a churchyard) or the insecure supply of building panels and other materials due to factors which include the pandemic and Brexit.

Please read on to find out what we plan to do about the challenges we now face.

4. Next steps for the new building

The PCC met to discuss our options. It agreed unanimously that:

- Our vision for growth remains absolutely clear. To enable this growth we want to build a versatile space which Hurdsfield people can use.
- There are no other local buildings or sites for sale that meet our needs.
- Our original decision to build a lightweight building with structural insulated panels remains the simplest and most economic way to achieve our objectives, particularly given the constraints of building over old graves.
- God's extraordinary provision in enabling us to receive payments or pledges of over £400K, mostly from the HTH family, affirms that our vision remains correct and that we should continue to proceed with our new building.

5. A revised project plan

The PCC has decided to re-structure the project by separating the design and installation of the **foundation** from the design and construction of the **building**. To do this, our BFTF Project Team will appoint consultants and professional engineers to advise us and develop the specific design information we need. Once it has this information, it will return to the PCC to discuss the options and agree the way forward.

Swift referred to volatility and unpredictability in the supply of materials and the availability of subcontractors. Since this uncertainty will continue, the Project Team will produce a new **project plan** identifying the current risks and will review the budget to incorporate the best understanding of current costs.

6. Timescales, costs and fundraising

We are not yet certain about **timescales**, but there will be a significant period before we are able to confirm the foundation design and start the tender process for the building. We don't expect we'll see our building completed within the next twelve months.

We're working on a revised project **budget**. Volatility in the market for materials and price increases across the construction industry mean our original £229K budget for the new building is likely to rise significantly.

We did, however, include a contingency budget and we spent less on the resurfacing than we had budgeted.

So this is what the money looks like now:

Spent	£70K	Resurfacing, lighting, signage, redecoration, ground surveys and planning application fees
Committed	£38K	Curate office costs and housing for the Frost family for three years
Total forecast money raised	£415K	Leaving just over £300K that we hope will be sufficient to complete our new building

But until we start getting quotes again, we can't be sure whether we'll have enough money to complete the project or whether we'll need to raise more.

7. Questions

You may well have concerns and questions. Please do email these to bftf@hthmacc.com and one of the BFTF Project Team will come back to you.

Of course we'll continue to let you know what's happening as we move forwards.

8. Please pray

Please keep on praying. From the beginning we have held on to the following:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

We have made amazing progress. We believe that BFTF is more than buildings and tarmac. We want it to make a real difference in growing God's kingdom in this place.

So please keep praying that, in all we are doing, **even before we complete our Building for the Future project**, God will continue to use every one of us for His glory as we seek to meet the needs of our community and share the good news of the gospel.

Thank you.

James, the BFTF Project Team and the PCC
1 August 2021