



Here's a written summary of the update about our Building for the Future project (BTF) that we shared on HTH Sunday Live on 18 April. If you prefer, you can watch the video [here](#).

1. One project, three parts

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 since September 2020

We've completed all the works to **improve our site and welcome**:

- resurfacing the whole site
- smoothing the ramp to the church door
- improving parking and creating new spaces
- creating disabled parking spaces and a drop-off zone
- installing improved signage
- removing the blue shipping container
- installing cycle racks
- installing a shed for garden equipment and other outdoor items
- redecorating the church door, lobby and coffee lounge.

We've found **some more resource to grow our ministry**. Jonny Frost will be our curate for three years from July. Part of his role will be to help us understand how we can grow our ministry, especially amongst Hurdsfield people. We are so looking forward to welcoming the Frost family, and we'll introduce them some more on HTH Sunday Live in the coming months.

The final part of our project, a new building, has been more challenging, but we continue to make steady progress.

3. So when will work on the new building start?



Since January 2020, when we shared pictures of what a new building could look like (and got some great feedback), we have:

- received permission from both the Diocese and the Local Authority to build our new building
- removed the classroom and office portacabins to make the site ready, and
- chosen a building supplier, The Swift Organisation, based in Adlington.

But we haven't yet signed a contract with Swift.

Swift is a small company, who we chose because of:

- the quality of its buildings
- cost
- local recommendations, and
- the good working relationship we've built together since 2019.

Over the last year Swift has been challenged by:

- demand for its buildings (mainly small offices) growing significantly
- the pandemic and Brexit constraining the supply of building materials, and
- its suppliers not providing all the information it needs.

The last issue has affected Swift’s ability to design the foundations, which are more complex than those it encounters with its usual projects. These complexities, along with the general impacts of the pandemic and Brexit have slowed progress and increased costs . Our budget, however, included an amount to cover such a contingency.

As a result, in February the project team decided to pause to take stock of what we felt God was saying to us through these challenges. After a fruitful, prayerful and positive discussion we were unanimous that the vision that brought BFTF to life in 2019 remains valid.

In fact, we concluded that the pandemic, while creating project difficulties and uncertainty, has also opened up possibilities and opportunities to achieve our HTH vision through, for example:

- sharpening our awareness of needs within the communities we serve, and
- introducing us to different ways of using technology to connect with one another and with communities in Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond.

So we continue as planned, holding weekly progress meetings with Swift, committed to the planned build, but expecting that it probably won’t be completed until autumn 2021.

4. How is the fundraising going?

We expect that project will cost up to £400K.

We have been incredibly blessed by the amazing response of the whole church to help fund the project. So far we have received the following payments or pledges:

	£
Grants - Cheshire East, Allchurches Trust, Beatrice Laing Trust	30,500
Sales - portacabins, container, furniture	6,500
Transfer from PCC reserves	75,000
Donations received so far, including Gift Aid	166,500
Donation of matched funding received, including Gift Aid	62,500
Remaining donations pledged, including Gift Aid	59,000
TOTAL	£400,000

5. What else can I do?

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

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 want BFTF to be 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 through 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
18 April 2021**