

2038: Building for the Future

Update 2



1. The story so far...

We're walking a journey as we seek to play our part in the building of God's kingdom in Hurdsville, Macclesfield and beyond.

Our Vision (What we are about):

We seek to passionately follow Jesus, sharing the good news of His amazing love and seeing people, relationships and our community transformed by Him.

Our Values (Who we aspire to be):

We are HTH | family | authentic | adventurers

2. Progress since last update

Cheshire East Council has confirmed that it will not give planning consent for our current temporary buildings (office and classroom) after December 2020. The '2038: Building for the Future' Project Team, which is tasked with helping us move forward with our ambitions, has met twice since May. It presented an update to the PCC on 15 July and 22 July.

The PCC agreed to develop plans for a new building that will replace and enhance the facilities provided by the current office and classroom, hopefully on the same site as these. We want the new building to house an office, small meeting room, large meeting space, small kitchen, toilets and storage for church equipment. It will need to be accessible by all and we'll encourage non-church groups to use it.

The PCC agreed some principles about what kind of decisions and expenditure that the Project Team can make by itself and which ones it will need to discuss with the PCC or the whole church.

We've now asked as many groups as possible, both regulars at church (home groups, etc) as well as non-church users (Active in Retirement, Trinity Tots, etc) to tell us how welcoming they feel HTH is.

3. What we're working on now

- We're developing a design brief for a new building, taking into account the feedback from church and non-church groups, the decisions made by the PCC, the constraints of budget, space, trees, graves, etc, and the views of Cheshire East Council and the Diocese.
- We're working on the permissions we need to resurface the site to improve access for all and improved car and bicycle parking.
- We're assembling a group to look at how we might raise the money and phase the budget accordingly.
- We're working with the Council on the New Homes Bonus. We're delighted that we were successful in bidding for about £15k from the New Homes Bonus towards our planned expenditure in improving the Church site. The Council has introduced some additional criteria about how the project is monitored. We're currently talking to its staff about how we can meet these new outcomes in a timely manner as they appear to be very challenging and may present a risk to this funding. We'll let you know how we get on.

4. Any questions?

There's lots of experience in the Project Team – John Burt (Lead), James Gibson, Jo Gregory, Jenni Hardy and Deb Last. Some have specific building planning and design skills, while others bring project and change management skills. This exciting project must continue to be an open dialogue, so please do ask them, or any member of the PCC, anything at all. We're aiming to produce written updates like this, and give short updates in church, every two months.

5. And finally...

I believe that this is our moment, that God will make the way clear and provide all we need to be effective for Him and the growth of His kingdom to 2038 and beyond. Many of you tell me that you continue to pray for God's guidance for HTH along this journey. Thank you so much for this support. We'll be joining in prayer for this project each month next term. Let us continue to be faithful to God in our personal lives as we follow Him and constant in our prayers for the future of His kingdom in us, HTH, Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond.

James GIBSON – 25/07/19