

Update 1

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 Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond. In 2018 I talked about vision and values:

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

The PCC & I believe that ***now is the time to put in place a foundation for the future ministry of HTH.***

2. Establishing a Project Team

To ensure we move forward on our ambition, we've formed a small project team, led by John Burt and including Jo Gregory, Jenni Hardy, Emma Kingdom, Deb Last and myself. We'll be asking others to join as we identify further specific experience and skills that we need. The team's current priorities are to:

- work out where the project begins and ends (its scope) and which decisions it needs to refer to the PCC
- work out how much it all might cost and how we might raise the money
- work through the responses we've already received about our need for a new office and classroom (see next section), and
- understand the needs of the decision makers at Cheshire East Council and the Diocese (we have regular planned discussions with both).

In the next update, we'll tell you a bit about the experience and responsibilities of each team member and how we'll keep you up to date with what they're doing.

3. What you've told us so far....

After I introduced the project's 'foundation' phase, many of you generously gave us comments, questions and encouragement. Many people have told me that

you are praying for God's guidance for HTH along the journey and I appreciate this so much.

Specifically with regard to the three elements of the future that I outlined in April, your feedback was as follows:

- **Investing in people** – you told us that we need to think carefully before recruiting any additional resources and to use volunteers effectively.
- **Investing in the church site and welcome** – you greatly encouraged us to get on with this as soon as possible, to make the site and our welcome fit for God's purpose.
- **Investing in facilities** – many of you have lots of ideas about what a new building might look like, so we'll collect your views in a standardised way over the next month or two. Watch this space.

We've collated all the feedback so far and, over the next few weeks, we'll try and work out the best way to respond to your detailed questions, even if some of them don't yet have answers. We'll think about the best ways of keeping everyone up to date in as efficient and environmentally responsible way as possible. We will give short updates in church every month or so, and encourage your regular feedback – this whole process needs to be an open dialogue.

A key priority is raising the appropriate funds in a timely manner. We are delighted to have been successful in our bid for about £15k from the New Homes Bonus related to the new development being built in the Hurdsfield parish and the team will look at how best to spend this. The PCC will also look at how we use our HTH reserves in the most effective way.

4. A final thought...

As I said last month, ***this is our moment, our opportunity here and now to respond*** and step into what God is calling HTH to do as we play our part in His growing kingdom. *Proverbs 3 v5-6: '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'.*

Given that we are proceeding in prayer, I believe that He will make the way clear and provide all we need so that we can remain faithful to Him and be effective for Him and the growth of His kingdom to 2038 and beyond.

James GIBSON – 02/06/19