



1. The story so far...

Together we're building God's kingdom in Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond.

Our Building for the Future (BftF) project has three elements.

Investing in a new building to replace our office and classroom (Cheshire East will not grant us further consent for the present buildings).

Investing in our site to make it more welcoming through better access, traffic flows, signage, parking and interior decoration.

Investing in our people to help us grow.

2. Progress since last update

After its November meeting, the PCC held a special BftF meeting in December.

We approved the design for the new building and changes to our site so we can submit these to the planning departments at Cheshire East and Chester Diocese

We approved in principle how much our new building and changes to our site might cost, and how much of this we would expect to spend in each of 2020 and 2021.

We accepted that, to build our new building, we'll need to remove the ash tree and two hornbeam trees close to the current classroom early in the new year (we'll be planting new trees elsewhere on our site later).

3. 'Show & tell' with the whole church on Sunday 26 January

I, the rest of the PCC, and the BftF Project Team are excited that, on 26 January, we'll be able to share with you the building and site plans and ideas we've developed to help build HTH for the future.

All our building and site plans are subject to the agreement of the Council and the Diocese, so we'll also be explaining the planning processes and the permissions we require.

Of course, we'll also be talking about how much this will all cost, and how we might raise what we need.

There'll be plenty of time to ask questions and share your reactions and thoughts.

4. What we're working on now

This is what we plan to do over the next few months.

Incorporate feedback we've received from the Council into a detailed plan to improve access, traffic flows, signage and parking (including bicycle parking) and make a formal planning application for this work.

Make a formal planning application for the new building, incorporating feedback from a pre-application meeting with the Council.

Find someone within the church to draw some ideas about how we can make the lobby and Brocklehurst lounge more welcoming. Please let me know if this might be you.

Continue to work with the Council on accessing the £16k that we successfully bid for towards our planned expenditure in improving our site.

Keep the Diocese informed about progress at every step.

Work with our chosen Structural Engineer, NSS, as it investigates our site in respect of the foundations our planned new building will need.

5. Any questions?

We're aiming to produce written updates like this, and give short updates in church, every two months. You'll be able to read each update on our [website](#).

I'm looking forward to discussing our plans with you on 26 January. If you have any questions before then, please ask any of the Project Team: John Burt, Jenni Hardy, Deb Last or myself.

6. And finally...

As we develop and share our plans to build, equip and resource HTH for the future, it is so important that we each continue to pray for God's guidance and blessing on all that we do in His name. I expect that the way ahead will be full of challenges. Firstly, we are the custodians of a building and site that has seen continuous worship for more than 180 years, and all developments and changes must be sensitive to that past. Secondly, we will need to raise a great deal of money before our plans can become reality. I am confident that God will continue to bless HTH as we seek to discern His will for our future. Thank you for joining the journey.