



On 'HTH Sunday Live' Pip and I updated everyone about our Building for the Future (BftF) project. Here's the written summary that I promised. (If you prefer, you can watch the live update [here](#)).

1. A quick recap – One project, three parts

There are so many opportunities through which we can bless people, build relationships throughout our community and bring the transformation that the gospel promises. So, BftF 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.

Back in January 2020 we presented BftF to the congregation and everyone was able to give their feedback. Our last update was in June and since then we have made some great progress which we want to share with you.

2. Progress since June 2020

As you know we have been waiting for a response from Cheshire East regarding our planning application for the new building and I am delighted to be able to tell you that on 10 August our application was approved. Following that approval, the Chancellor of Chester Diocese has approved our faculty as well.

This means that we now have all the permissions we need to go ahead and get the work done. This is fantastic news and we praise God for making this happen so quickly and smoothly.

In the meantime, lots of volunteers have been working hard in the church lobby and lounge and this is now fully redecorated and has new and improved lighting.

We have also installed additional lighting outside the church and have new signs ready to be installed across the site once it is resurfaced.

3. So when will the resurfacing and building works start?

We plan to start resurfacing the road and paths in mid-September. We have had assurances from both the building and resurfacing contractors that there is minimal risk involved in tarmacking the road and pathways ahead of the building construction as it will not involve heavyweight vehicles and machinery.

In May the PCC agreed to proceed with a pre-negotiation competition to identify a contractor for the new building. The BftF team have now selected a preferred option and have started negotiation with them to develop the detail of a design and build contract including detailed construction information and Building Regulations approval. We have not yet agreed a start date for this work, but now that all the permissions are in place, we are pushing hard to get everything in place.

4. Where are we up to with finding more resource?

James and several members of the congregation have been in conversation with a potential curate identified by the Diocese, with a view to them starting in June 2021 for 2-3 years. The outcome of these conversations was overwhelmingly positive and we have now had confirmation from the Diocese Director of Vocations that they are happy for them to serve their curacy here. This needs to be finally ratified by the Bishop's staff in September. As soon as it is confirmed we will let you know more.

Alongside their training, they will help with activities which might include:

- ministry to the new estate on the Kings School site
 - ministry in and through the Green in the Corner Café
 - developing a new congregation
 - exploring the possibility of extending our families work through the school and the community through running courses (Alpha, managing debt, wellbeing, etc).
- The opportunity is there - we need the resource to lead and coordinate the activities.

5. How is the fundraising going?

As we have outlined previously, we expect that project will cost up to £400K.

We have submitted grant applications to the Coop community fund and the Allchurches trust. We have two other applications, to the Joseph Rank and Beatrice Laing Trusts, which we are finalising and will submit in early September.

We hope to be successful in these bids and they will ensure that when combined with the money already received and pledged towards the project we will have sufficient funds to complete all the works.

Now that we have received all the permissions, we want to ask you to send in the money you have pledged to BftF. If you have pledged you will be receiving a letter from Pip, our Treasurer, telling you what to do and when. If you can act on these as quickly as possible that will be really helpful.

6. What else can I do?

Please keep on praying. From the beginning I 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 and thank you to those who are working so hard to make it all happen. We sense God's blessing and His 'making the path straight' in many ways and we pray that this would continue as we move into the construction phase of the project. But we want BftF to be more than buildings and tarmac. We want it to make a real difference for the growth of God's kingdom in this place. So please keep praying that in and through all we are doing, God will continue to use us and our facilities for his glory as we seek to meet the needs of our community and share the good news of the gospel with them.

I continue to pray that, as we listen to God and seek to follow Him, that He would indeed make the path straight.

Thank you to you all.

James, the BftF Project Team and the PCC
2 Sept 2020