

ii) The Future Building Group will, in future, take on a "reviewing and monitoring" role and, to this end, will meet again in 6 months to review progress towards the achievement of the recommendations in this report.

To make the above plans real, will require the wholehearted support and effort of us all. They will only be achieved if we all work together to raise the necessary funds: the church does not currently have the money available to spend on the proposed works. Organisations, groups, and individuals within our church family are invited and encouraged to start raising money and making donations to the church building improvement fund from now on. Our church treasurer, John Sykes, will be delighted to hear from you. We also hope to be able to identify some external sources of funding which we may assist with some aspects of the projects.

By working together, we believe we can enhance our premises so that they continue to provide an appropriate witness in the second decade of the 21st century to our Christian faith and the love of God, expressing our welcome and outreach to the wider community, and achieving higher levels of environmental sustainability.

The Future Building Group members have been:

Rev. Alistair Newton; Emily Picken; Margaret Fielden; Anthea Petts; Avril Dawes; Allen Pollard; Gareth and Rachel James; John Anderson; Ashley France; Mervyn and Chris Flecknoe.

Chris Flecknoe, Chair of the FBG. October 2011



A PEWS NEWS SUPPLEMENT A TEN-YEAR STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS. EXCITING PLANS WHICH WE HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT!



Introduction

The Future Building Group (FBG) was set up by the Church Council in Spring 2011, following on from the work of the Vision Group. The remit of the FBG was to consider how best to build and grow our church, particularly with regard to ensuring that our premises are fit for purpose in the future. The Group had 12 members, 6 men and 6 women, who between them represented a broad spectrum of ages and interests across our church family. We did not all start out with the same views, but, after many hours of discussion, prayer, and reflection, we were all able to achieve consensus around the recommendations in the final report.

The FBG has met on 5 occasions over the past six months, taken advice from a number of people with expertise to offer and considered a range of options. The congregation has also had the chance to make comments about their views on priorities for building improvements.

A report from the FBG, recommending that we adopt a 10-year strategy for improving our premises, was presented to the Church Council on 13 October 2011 and was unanimously endorsed by the Church Council.

This is a summary of the FBG recommendations, which the Church Council has now endorsed and adopted:

We were very mindful of the previously-adopted church Mission Statement:

Loving God, Loving People, Loving the World

The following Vision Statement (developed by the FBG) sets out an elaboration of the Mission Statement, to underpin the proposed 10 year building improvement strategy:

- We will become a growing church where new people find the love of God and join with us in worship and service. Existing members will be reinvigorated to take an active and committed role in the future development of our church
- We will value the present strengths of our intergenerational church family. We will aim to meet the needs of our congregation
- We will welcome and provide activities for all ages. We will encourage people of different ages and backgrounds to learn from each other and share in being a Christian community
- We will expand the work we do with children, with young people, and with families. We will reach out to vulnerable people of all ages, encouraging them to fulfil their potential
- We will be recognised as being at the heart of Baildon. We will put into practice and demonstrate, through our actions, the unconditional love of God to our neighbours near and far
- We will respect God's World; using as little energy as possible, creating as little waste as possible. We will leave the world a better place for everyone's children and grandchildren.
- We will work in partnership with other churches, organisations, and businesses that share our values and vision.

This Vision Statement is still work-in-progress. There will be the chance for the wider Church family to discuss this Vision Statement on Saturday 11 February, when we will be holding a day-long Church Family and Community Consultation Event at the Church centre for all ages, under the title of TGI Saturday. Watch out for more news about this soon.

Preamble to the ten-year building improvement strategy:

- We have worked on the assumption that strategies will be in place in the near future to ensure that our revenue income and expenditure are brought back into balance in the coming financial year. We believe that this is a necessary pre-requisite for the commencement of any significant building-improvement programme
- Assuming that a balanced budget is in place, we propose, an incremental ten-year strategy for changes to our buildings that will facilitate our mission, as currently understood, and make it easier for funders to support us. We accept that the Church's understanding of its mission may develop and change in years to come and therefore have tried to build flexibility into the strategy
- We hope there will be full consultations with Church members and users of Wesleys at every stage when projects are being planned
- Environmental sustainability should be a key consideration when any building project is undertaken.

The ten-year plan to improve our Church premises

I. Top Priorities for improvements:

A). Wesleys

Wesleys Café area is the overall top priority for improvement and it should be refurbished and extended to provide for all age groups in an intergenerational atmosphere. This is the centre of our welcome and outreach in the community. Consultation with members of the Church has shown that there is a strong desire to see improvements made to Wesleys Café area– to include improved roofing, ceilings, lighting, replacement glass to windows and doors, possible improvements to internal lay-out (including toilets), and perhaps an extension out on to part of the terrace facing Binswell Fold. Within one year, architects (at least two) should be invited to prepare options and costings for the improvement of the Wesleys area with the full participation of staff and volunteers of the Café, so that, within two years, we can invite contributions from the congregation and from funders, to begin the work.

B). The Marley Hut

Whilst the Marley Hut at present brings in more income than it costs to run, we recognise that the building is not ideal both in terms of efficiency, storage, or environmental standards. The Property Committee has been asked to enter into formal discussions this year with the Baildon Pre-School as key partners, and with other user groups, to develop a plan for a replacement building on this site within five years. We recognise that use of this building by the Pre-School and other community groups may unlock potential sources of external grant-aid. Any new building should use space more efficiently to provide a larger floor area and consideration should be given to having a two-storey building on this site which might link with an extended Wesleys Café or other parts of the open space at that end of our premises.

It is possible that schemes A and B could be closely integrated and, if so, once plans begin to develop, it might be appropriate to run this work as a single project.

2. Meanwhile: there is the potential for some “quick wins”

C). Energy systems

The Property Committee is commissioned by the Church Council to seek professional advice about the alternative heating and energy systems for the Church building and Wesleys. The boilers are in need of replacement and the Property Committee have an indicative quote of £20,000 for this to be achieved. There is a case for an early appeal to members and to user-organisations for contributions of up to £500 on which gift-aid tax could be reclaimed, (to be called in when the overall total needed has been achieved) in order to install solar photo-voltaic panels on the church roof. Improved heating and energy systems would save the Church considerably in terms of monthly outgoings on utilities costs.

D). Room One

We believe that the Property Committee should make arrangements, within the coming year, to improve the lighting and décor of Room One and replace the floor covering, both to facilitate its use by church groups, and also to encourage lettings. We think there may be opportunities for using volunteers to complete some of the decorative work. This project would require some funding over and above the £2,000 already allocated to the refurbishment of this room. Sound-proofing of this room should also be considered to make it more usable when activities are taking place in the Hall.

3. Longer term proposals:

E). Quiet Room and Newton Way entrance

The Quiet Room needs to receive major refurbishment within the next seven years to provide soundproofing and storage, and to facilitate its use as a vestry and prayer room. This may also be an opportunity to improve the access to the Church premises from Newton Way.

F). The Church (Sanctuary)

No major structural changes are recommended at the present time for the church (sanctuary). We believe that the current lay-out of the building has many advantages and is “loved” by many members and visitors. We do not believe that our Church (sanctuary) building should be divided horizontally. We should seek to identify funds within ten years to improve insulation systems and windows, and to update the décor and technology. Bean bags may be a useful way of adding flexible seating for young people for us at popular services.

Supporting Recommendations

G). Partnerships

We are mindful that in the centre of Baildon, there are 3 Christian churches and associated premises in close proximity to each other and that maintaining buildings is going to be increasingly a challenge for all denominations. We therefore recommend to the Church Council that an approach be made initially and in the near future to the Moravians to discuss the possibility of developing a closer working relationship and, potentially in the long-run, an ecumenical partnership with them. Such a partnership might, one day, strengthen our Christian witness, provide a spark and resources to help to reinvigorate our combined church life, and hasten the time when a large-scale building improvement project for the two churches might become a reality. For instance, the Moravians have a successful scout troop: we have a guide company. Sharing of storage and camping equipment and co-ordination and sharing of parade services would make sense as a first step.

H). Establishing a “Church Building Improvement Fund”

The former “Green Fund” will be replaced immediately by a new “Church Building Improvement Fund” which can now start to receive donations. This new fund will be publicised within our congregation, and individuals and user groups will be encouraged to start making donations to it for the support of the implementation of the building-improvement recommendations. As specific building projects are developed, it will be made easy for members and funders to give sums hypothecated to specific projects.

I). Lead responsibility for taking the plan forward

i) The Property Committee has been asked by the Church Council to take responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the above Recommendations A – F inclusive and, where appropriate, the Church Council will give additional delegated powers to the Property Committee to fast-track actions on the implementation of agreed decisions.

ii) Representatives of the Church Council will be delegated to work with our Minister to seek a formal meeting with the Moravian Minister and representatives of the Moravian Church Council to discuss closer working relationships.