

**A Way Forward?**

**St John's Church  
Hall Development  
Project**

**June 2007**



## The Story so far!

The redevelopment project has been ongoing for over three years now with much "behind the scenes" discussion, consultation and planning. As much as possible of the rationale and detail of the plans has been shared openly with the church family and due permission and authority has been sought, (and given to the project team), from the Leadership and PCC to reach the stage of progress so far; namely to commission a design team to draw up plans ready for submission to acquire planning permission.

Following Bob's Vision talk in January 07 the church family responded by giving feedback to the project and an open meeting was held in February to raise awareness about the details of the plans and to answer general questions. This was felt to be a good meeting to help people understand the development of the proposed project and why costs are as they are. About 40 people attended the meeting.



**The current church hall is becoming more and more costly to keep in a usable condition.**



## The Way Forward

Time has moved on and a decision on progressing the project has to be made. The Project Team, in consultation with the leadership of the church including the Forum, has considered the matter carefully and has set out a process to discern God's way forward. Details of the process are outlined below-

**Time has  
come to  
make a  
decision.  
To do  
nothing is  
not an  
option!**

Monday 11 June Prayer meeting 7-7.45 pm in church

Friday 22 June Prayer Meeting 8-9.30 pm in church

Monday 25 June Open Forum meeting 8 pm in church

Saturday 30 June Church open for prayer 9 am to 12  
noon

Sunday 1 July 'Commissioning' of decision making group

Week 1-7 July Prayer, discernment and decision making  
meeting(s)

Sunday 8 July, Feedback to church family

Following our open forum meeting in February it was recognised that we need to be able to say 'It is good to the Holy Spirit and to us' in order to have confidence to discern the Lord's leading in this project. All need to be involved in the process. The planned meeting on the 25 June is to enable all to share and learn about the proposals. Arising from our first open forum meeting there were some enquiries about comparing our plans

and costs with other projects. Also some comments were made about the Saturday morning meeting time being unsuitable for people with families. The 25 June will be to answer these queries and allow others who could not attend in February to come along.

All are encouraged to be informed about this project and so also to be part of the discerning process by joining in prayer for the decision. Individual prayers are welcomed but there is something special about coming together to seek God's will and corporate times of prayer have been organised. Cell leaders are encouraged to make this a focus for prayer this month. Discerning is listening for God's voice and words, pictures or other guidance is encouraged. Please feedback directly to those involved or post on the project display board at the back of the church. Saturday 30 June is seen to be a day when final responses can be held before God in quiet prayer in the Church Family Centre. This will be a last opportunity to post responses on the board.

With everyone having opportunity to discern for themselves and to feed into the decision making, a small group will be set aside before God to collectively discern a way forward. This will be in the context of a Commissioning Service for various Ministries Leaders in the Church. This group will comprise of some PCC members, (who ultimately take responsibility for any decision), Bob, Forum members and a representative of the Project Team. After being prayed for and given authority on behalf of the church, during the following week they will meet to pray and discern the way forward. This will then be shared with the church family.

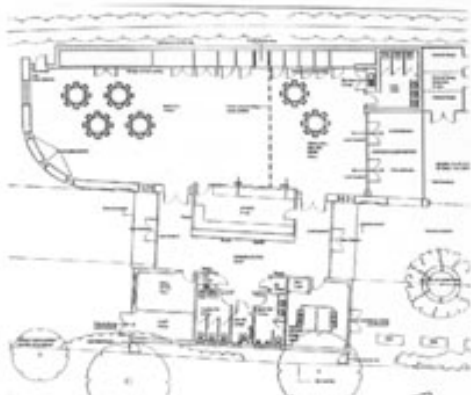
## What are the options?

### Introduction


Along the way in developing plans for the Church Hall Project it was always felt that a new hall would help fulfil the vision of the church, namely  
*"Experiencing & expressing the presence & love of God at the heart of the community"*

Do the church hall plans help us to do this? After all that is the key question to hold before God in making a decision to go ahead. **To do nothing with the current hall building will soon no longer be an option.** Something needs to be done imminently. Do you know what features and facilities the proposed plans offer for the church family and community? If the proposed plans need to be changed, what should they incorporate instead?

This leaflet should help you find out where to go to answer these questions and how you can be involved in deciding the future of the project.



**Plan detail of current proposals. Have you really studied these plans and the design brief? They are available at the back of the church.**



**Unless the Lord builds the  
house, its builders labour in  
vain.**

**Psalm 127 vs 1**



### **The Project Team**

John Saxon	512595
Andrew Tiffin	751393
Clive Woodruff	851997
Nick Bell	841721
Ian Johnson	860508
Bernard Johnson	843353
Peter and Julia Hassard	843232

E-mails enquiries may be made to the  
above via the church office  
[stjohnschurch.col@talk21.com](mailto:stjohnschurch.col@talk21.com)