

Why do you need a new church?

The existing building is 125 years old and was only built as a lightweight temporary structure. The church and hall are used not just for worship but also for a wide range of community activities by various groups.

The 2015 Architectural Inspection revealed major problems with the roof which was given a 5 year remaining life. Fitting a new roof is not an option, so we opted for a complete new build to replace the existing church and hall.

Why are you building it on the field?

The church field was gifted to St. Mark's in the 1930s for the specific purpose of enabling a new church to be built and gives enough space to accommodate our proposals.

Have you consulted locally?

A Community Survey was undertaken in 2017 in both paper form and via the Internet. We received 148 replies. We took account of the responses when formulating our ideas for the new build.

What is the current status of the project?

We are in the final stages of the design phase, following which we will make the plans public and proceed into the formal Planning Application stage.

What will happen to the site of the old church?

The site will be sold to offset the cost of the new build – we will consider restrictions to ensure that any new development meets the needs of the community.

What will the new church look like?

The design is in the final stages of development but the building will be single storey with a pitched roof. Access to all areas will be via a single entrance with an adjacent office for inquiries.

What facilities will it have?

There will be spaces for both worship and community use (which will be larger and more flexible in configuration than at present) as well as a cafe area and meeting room. Toilet facilities will be much improved with extra provision for baby changing and the disabled. There will also be a modern kitchen, a vestry and storage rooms.

When will we be able to see the plans?

Once the design is finalised, we will hold a public meeting to show details of the plans. It is hoped that this will occur in August or early September.

New Build Questions and Answers – July 2019

Will there still be any green space?

There will still be green space remaining and we intend using this for a variety of community-friendly purposes which are yet to be determined.

What will happen to the trees?

Most of the existing trees will remain as they are not affected by the development; one exception is a single tree that will have to be removed at the main entrance.

How much will it cost?

This will depend on the final design and quoted construction costs but is likely to be in the region of £ 800k

How much money do you still need to raise?

Taking account of existing funds and an estimate of the current site value, we need to raise an additional £ 400k. We intend making applications to a wide range of grant awarding / funding bodies to make up the shortfall as well as continuing to hold our own fundraising events.

Will there be a car park?

There will be parking for approximately 30 cars including dedicated disabled spaces.

Where will the entrance be?

The vehicle entrance will be at the same location as the existing field gate; there will be a separate pedestrian entrance from Crewe Road immediately in front of the entrance to the building.

Will construction cause disruption?

We would intend minimising noise and disruption and we will ensure that the chosen contractor is a member of the Considerate Constructors Scheme and complies with their code of practice.

When will you start building?

Once our planning application is approved we will be able to apply for grants and funding. Once this is secured we will award the contract and construction would then commence. This is unlikely to be before Spring 2020.

How long will the construction work take?

Construction work could take around 9 months to complete.