



Christ Church Stocksbridge

A URC/Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership

A new Community Hall

..... in a newly landscaped environment

..... offering new community services

A new generation of church

A new generation calls for a new vision of how our church can serve its local community. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is called to serve its community, and to use its resources in an open and sharing manner.

Our church has about 120 members, and an active life in the community. We have now begun a development programme to update our buildings to enable us to offer a new range of services in the life of the community, and to create a more sustainable set of buildings.

We also want to improve the environment around the new hall and the old church, so that the space becomes a quality urban landscape, and is a strong feature at the north end of the town.

The church has been created over the last four years from the former members of two local churches, United Reformed and Methodist, whose roots and history go back nearly two hundred years in Stocksbridge and Deepcar.

The church has a large network of local contacts, and a thriving life in the Valley; we want to build on this to make a real impact on the Christian life of our community, and to engage in service within the community. With the financial assistance of the Sheffield North Methodist Circuit, we have a new part-time minister and we are about to appoint a new part-time family and community worker.

You can find out lots more about us on our website at

www.christchurchonline.org .

Thank you for your help.

A new set of community services

Having made a great success of merging two congregations, the members are now embarking on a programme of opening up their church and buildings for new community activities.

We are very conscious of the stresses and strains of modern life for people in our community. Stocksbridge, a proud steel town, has been seriously affected by the steep reduction in the number of jobs in 'the works', down from over 10,000 to under 2,000 in a generation. And with the economic woes of the last decade, many people are looking for some form of support, or a chance to re-engage with their community.

We hope to create some new forms of community activities ourselves, in consultation with the community, and we will share in some other new activities with other groups. The new community hall will be a quality and friendly new community resource. You can read about our plans on the inside.

The church will be building on secure foundations, a committed membership, a balanced church budget and experience of working with community groups.





The plans for community use

There are three main aims for future use of the buildings:

1 Improved facilities for existing users

Our existing users have been very patient with the hall's deficiencies. It is old, and falling down. The felt roof is continually in need of patching. The windows don't open and shut any more. The toilets are small, very tired and not easy to use. The kitchen space is restricted, not compliant, and has very poor equipment. The groups are:

- Stocksbridge Arts Society
- Don Valley Probus group
- Stocksbridge & District History Society
- Christ Church Guild
- Stocksbridge Floral Arts Society
- Fox Valley Probus group

We are privileged to host an amazing project providing one to one support for adults with severe learning difficulties, and we hope the new facilities will enrich their activities.

2 Excellent facilities to enable new community services

We have plans to establish some new community activities, in partnership with other local interest groups and individuals. We are recruiting a new church community worker, who will work with us on these plans, and we are already in discussion with other community groups who want to use the new community facilities.

We have already begun consultations with local people and statutory bodies to develop plans for new work with elderly isolated people, isolated adults, young parents, and others. We are consulting with agencies that will support us in this new work, including transport, volunteer support, environmental projects and work schemes. The detailed discussions for these are beginning now. We expect to bring some of this work on-stream immediately the new hall is finished.

3 A sustainable modern church in a traditional setting

The church is a lively and caring congregation which seeks to expand its use of the premises. As well as the regular church activities, we put on shows and concerts, and the main worship space is sometimes used for choirs and other performers. We want to increase this availability and the facilities and quality of the main worship area to be a top-quality local multi-purpose venue in the valley. We want to make the premises a **"place of meeting"** in the Valley.



The plans for the buildings

There are three distinct 'projects' within the development of the premises:

1 A new community hall

This is the most important and urgent element. We will build a **new Community Hall** with new toilets and circulation space to have a suite of rooms with single level access and allow multiple use of rooms and facilities.

There will be a new **accessible lift to the upper level**.

There will be a **new kitchen in the Community Hall**, fully equipped with stainless furniture and fittings, to comply with all the health and safety regulations and allow community services such as lunch clubs and other community activities.

There will be **new storage units**, so that all the community activities can each have sufficient storage to enable their activities to operate in a multi-use environment.



2 A new landscaped environment

There will be a **new landscaped 'urban space'** surrounding the new Community Hall. This will integrate the churchyard, the hillside facing the works and the open spaces around to set off the Community Hall in its landscape.

There will be a **new 'safe garden' space** for community use by users of the Community Hall and the future parents and toddler activities, and a new **'woodland walk and activity space'** for young and old to enjoy.

There will be **up-graded access and parking** for disabled and mobility use vehicles, and other users of the Community Hall.

3 A modern and flexible-use church

We will re-order the church to improve its **multi-use capability**, **improve the services** in the buildings to be up-to-date, safe, and compliant, **double glaze** to reduce energy consumption, create a **new welcome space** to encourage users and allow flexible event management, create a **new quality meeting room** in the former organ space, up-grade **the event lighting** for concerts and performances, purchase a **concert-quality electronic organ**, and re-locate the war memorials that are in various places, to make a more coherent **'Memorial space'**.



Cost plan

A new Community Hall	
Replace old community hall with new modular build hall	52,000
Create link building to church and install toilets	88,500
Install accessible lift between two levels	15,500
Fees, contingencies and VAT	58,646
Project cost	214,646

A new Landscape	
Landscape the entire grounds and access paths, and create urban woodland walk and children's area	40,000
New signage	2,000
Fees, contingencies and VAT	15,789
Project cost	57,789

A more flexible church	
Replace front doors with glazed doors and upgrade lobby	5,000
Equip kitchen in new community hall	20,000
Re-order church to create flexible space	47,082
Replace organ with concert electric organ	33,000
Create new room from old organ loft	5,000
Install double glazing on church windows	13,033
Re-wire and install fire alarm and emergency lighting	10,000
Create storage spaces in the hall and outside	15,000
Fees, contingencies and VAT	55,682
Project cost	203,797

We therefore need a total of around £476,000 for the three projects.

Estimates are based on a commissioned consultant's work in November 2012. Once final drawings and tenders are available we will have a more accurate cost plan.

Statement of Mission and Service

The church has consulted on a 5 year Statement of Mission and Service, so that it has a clear direction and set of agreed plans for its life and activity.

The Statement includes a Church Vision statement, a an analysis of our strengths and weaknesses, a five year activity plan with ten strategic goals, a five year budget, and a development plan for the re-building programme. You can read a lot more on the website.



Fund-raising plan

We have the following monies as the basis:

Sale of Wesley Methodist Church	50,000
Development Fund account	28,000
Sale of Wesley Hall	29,000
Reserves committed by church	125,000
Trust fund committed to organ purchase	33,000
Total	265,000

We intend to apply, once all approvals are given, for grants and donations of £211,000 to the Rank Trust, Veolia and Biffa environmental funds, Coalfields Re-generation, and other major national and local funding bodies, including the lottery, for which the church meeting approved an application, and through local fund-raising. The specifics of fund-raising are being developed by a fund-raising committee. We will do the work in three distinct projects. We have agreed not to commit at any point to work which is not fully funded at the point of contract.

Environmental Policy

The church is beginning a consultation on an environmental policy for its life and operation. This will include how we as individuals use the resources of nature, how we live in a fairly shared world, and how we make sure our buildings have the least impact on our planet. We will be considering low energy options for the new building and its equipment, heat loss reduction and efficient energy use.

Scale drawings : Please note that the scale drawings have been slightly adjusted in this leaflet to fit the layout.

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