

Building for Growth

Full to bursting!

Our building was opened in April 2012 and we are very grateful to the Church of Scotland who provided the funds, in the region of £1million, for this to happen. It is a fantastic multi purpose building however very quickly it became clear that it was going to be too small for our purposes and as we have grown in number this has become increasingly apparent.



This is seen on a Sunday morning when

- a large group of children go to the Leisure Centre for their group.
- around 25 children squeeze into the back hall
- the teenagers meet in the small office
- the crèche takes place in the café area where there is noise bleed into the main hall.

As a church our great desire is that more people come to know Jesus Christ and become part of the church and our hope and prayer is that the church continues to grow. However, if that is to happen then it seems clear that we are going to need more space for the various activities that are taking place.

In addition to this our rooms are heavily booked throughout the year by community groups. This is a valuable resource for many and we believe additional space would be of benefit to people and groups in the community.

This paper gives an outline of our current plans to extend the building to overcome some of these problems and what the next stage of this might be.

Drawings

With the help of the Church of Scotland the Leadership appointed the architects Oliver and Robb (who designed the current building) to provide drawings for an annexe. In these plans we were anxious that the annexe made as much use of the space that was available as possible.

The drawings are available online at www.dunfermlineeastchurch.org.uk

As you will see from the drawings the annexe would be made up of a hall – with a moveable partition wall – along with toilet and small kitchen facilities. In this way it will be a self contained unit with its own entrance.

This will provide more space for our young people to use on a Sunday morning but will also offer a “sports hall” type facility for other groups.

This will not solve all our space “issues” however we believe it maximises the ground that is available to us and will go a long way to easing the pressure.

There will also be additional parking spaces provided.

A planning application was submitted and approved by the Council last year.

Costs

The current cost for the project is approx. £350,000. Obviously as the project develops and goes out to tender this may change.

It also does not include costs for furnishings and any Audio Visual requirements.

Funding

This raises the inevitable question of how this would be paid for!

Our current building was almost solely paid for by the Church of Scotland Ministries Council however, this new project will ultimately depend a great deal upon the local congregation to provide funding.

We currently have around £57,000 in reserves that we can commit to the project and funds would then come from the following:

- **Grants**

The Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland have agreed in principle to give us a £50,000 grant and we are currently seeking funds from other grant making bodies. The likelihood though is that even with grants that are offered that there will be a large amount that we will need to provide over a period of time. In some cases grants may only be given if we are able to show a financial commitment to the project.

- **Loans**

The General Trustees at the Church of Scotland are able to offer loans to a church and a likely scenario is that they would lend us money to complete the work and we would over say, 5 years, pay that off. However the amount that they will lend us will obviously depend on our ability as a church to fulfil our loan repayments.



- **Fundraising**

There will likely be fund raising events that take place in order to raise funds and it may well be that people in our community who are not actively involved in the church will want to support this project. However, we would not want any fundraising to distract us from the core mission of the church – which is to follow Christ and to make Him known in our community. We want to be in the business of serving our community, in the name of Jesus Christ, rather than asking them for money for our building!

The principle means of paying for the project will not be through fundraising but through the regular giving from those who are part of the congregation and who support its work.

- **Sacrificial Giving**

The only way that the project will be able to succeed is if people within the church are willing to give towards it. This would need to be on top of what they are already giving to the regular work of the church – the costs of which are also likely to increase in the next few years.

This could be a one off gift or a commitment to give regularly over a 3, 5 or 7 year period.

For example:

If 50 people/families were to give £50 a month over a 5 year period then that would raise £150,000 plus any Gift Aid.

If 70 people were to give £30 a month over a 5 year period that would raise £126,000 plus Gift Aid.

What can I do now?

Pray

This is large project and we need to bring it to God.

Asking for His guidance and wisdom for those who are involved in the practical aspects. Praying that funds would be available for the project and that the planning process would be smooth.



Get involved

We have a Annexe Group, led by Ross Thomson, that have worked on the project up to this point and if you would like to be involved in the plans as they progress then please get in touch with Andrew or Ross. In particular there is a great deal of work that will be necessary in seeking funding from grant making bodies. If this is something that you have experience of then please let us know.

Give

In 2015 we asked people to give us an indication of how much they would be able to pledge to the project and the final figure from that request was £70,000.

It is possible now to make pledges and to give towards the project. To do this please pick up a Pledge Form at the church or download a copy at www.dunfermlineeastchurch.org.uk