

Welcome to

re:news

issue 1

Involving the church family in transforming our building for a new season of growth



The story so far

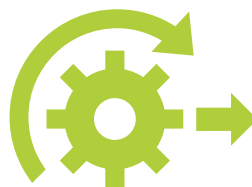
Many of you will know that the need to 'renew' our church building has been recognised for over a decade. Many faithful people - volunteers from the church family together with various professionals - have generously given time to considering how best to redevelop the building for the 21st-Century; and the plans have gradually developed over the years.

What do we believe God's vision is for our building?

Ever since a building project was first considered in 2006, the need to make our church building more welcoming and accessible to people beyond our own membership has been perhaps the strongest aspiration. In December 2014, Leighton Carr took on leadership of the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Team, which then arranged a multi-layered Consultation Process with church members, ministry team leaders, key volunteers, users of the building, PCC and staff to discover what they saw as the needs, and what vision they had for growing the church.

Progress in 2015

This most recent Consultation (there have been several over the years) began early in 2015. Your responses helped shape the new concept plans - which have evolved as different solutions were tested out in greater detail in response to the themes emerging from the Consultation.



In October 2015, a revised set of plans was published to the church family for comment, showing a possible set of solutions to the issues raised by church

family members. It was not - and is still not - a final design. Rather, it represents what the Team believes to be the best solution to the needs, dreams and aspirations expressed by all those who took part in the Consultation Process.

RENEWCHRISTCHURCH
www.renewchristchurch.org



What next for RENEWCHRISTCHURCH?

On 21 November 2015, the PCC met to consider the new concept plans along with your feedback, and reiterated its strong support for the Project whilst recognising that further time was needed to ensure that the whole church family can move forward in unity behind a final scheme. The PCC therefore called for more prayer to undergird the whole process, together with further consultation to ensure that everyone's questions and comments can be heard, so that we can be confident of the support of as many members as possible.



So we now start a new phase of the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Project: a time for seeking the Lord in prayer and further consideration of vision, needs and designs. 2016 will be an exciting year for us all. **Please join us in this adventure.**



Your wish list - Ground Floor

The whole church family was invited to take part in the Spring 2015 consultation in a number of different ways. Over 200 of you provided very useful detail about what you saw as the most pressing needs for refurbishment. You also provided some exciting and visionary ideas about how Christ Church could grow and serve our local community and city more effectively.

The quantity and range of views and information that came in challenged our record keeping at times but some clear themes emerged. Below is a brief summary of the main themes that guided the development of the present concept plans for the Ground Floor (Main Church). Beneath each is a short response indicating how the current designs pick up on these themes. Those for the Lower Ground Floor will be included in the next issue of *re:news*. Full details of the consultation responses can be found on the website www.renewchristchurch.org

Church family members said that:

We like the traditional stone architecture, often relating it to a sense of spirituality or awe.

The plans retain the stone structure and the stained-glass windows which will be enhanced by the removal of the dark wood screens, by the use of glass as dividers and by better lighting.

We would like the church 'lighter', 'brighter' and 'tidier'. We suggest more glass and fewer solid, dark panels.

The plans strongly reflect and meet these wishes..

The church needs better facilities such as more efficient heating, more sympathetic and useful lighting and a better audio-visual system.

The plans include all these and more.

We need a more welcoming entrance foyer that can accommodate large numbers of people better and direct flow more effectively.

The plans include an entrance and foyer with wider doors. There will be no restricting walls once people pass through the draught lobby and this lobby will be designed to protect the ground floor from the elements but not slow the flow of people.

Christ Church does not meet modern accessibility standards so that we currently disadvantage the elderly, those less able and families with young children.

The plans' design specification meets higher standards of accessibility with wider, easier doors, lifts as alternatives to stairs and ramps where there are changes of level.

We do not currently provide refreshments well on Sundays and suggest that we design a purpose built part of the church for this with appropriate facilities. This should be away from the front of church to preserve quiet for those who wish to meditate before and after services and at other times.

The plans include a cafe area at the back with a longer serving counter, more space for circulating and café style tables and chairs.

We would like the church open much more often during the week.

The plans enable this to be the case. The cafe will be open most days, the office will be re-located in the church and the positioning of new doors will allow easier access to the main church during the week whilst maintaining the security of other areas.

Christ Church should be more involved in the community: more visible externally and with facilities that bring the community into the church.

The plans secure these key aims in the design of the new entrances, the provision of a cafe and the range of high quality meeting rooms available to the community.

Keeping you informed

This is the first issue of **re:news** - a regular newsletter to keep you informed about the progress of **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH**, the project to redevelop our church building for a new season of growth.



We are now embarking on a period of discerning the Lord's vision for the next few years as we seek to fulfil his Mission of seeing the Kingdom Come. This process will shape the kind of church and community Christ Church becomes over the next few years, and will inform the final details of the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** project.

Please read re:news - and get involved as you can. If there are items that you would like to see covered in future re:news, please let us know.

How will decisions be made?

No decisions have been made yet. Our concept designs will evolve further in response to the wider process of discerning the Lord's vision for our church, together with the results of this further period of consultation.

The **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Team is due to report back to the PCC before the summer. Depending on the timescale for the wider vision process, the PCC will make final decisions about the concept plans. These plans will then be submitted to the Diocese for approval, at which stage they might be subject to further amendment. Any changes to the exterior of the building - for example, the external doors at the Pre-School entrance - will also need the approval of the Local Planning Authority

Finally, the concept plans will be worked up to the level of detail required to go out to tender, and our Giving Campaign will begin. The **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Team will require the help of a number of the church family to complete these tasks and specialist sub-groups are likely to be set up.

Thank you to Leighton!



Leighton Carr, formerly an architect and now a member of the Christ Church clergy team, has devoted the last 12 months to the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Project as an un-paid volunteer - whilst also working part-time in London for the Diocese of Southwark in a huge regeneration project around the Battersea Power Station development!

Although having limited time to offer, Leighton has brought a wide-range of professional and personal skills to the Project in order to help us work up concept designs and be in a position to move forward. He has spent a vast number of hours on **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH**, and we are so very grateful to him for taking us this far - and for his wife Catherine for so graciously lending so much of him to us.

He is now preparing to take up a full-time post with the Diocese of Southwark.

Thank you Leighton for the huge contribution you have made to RENEWCHRISTCHURCH.

Important diary date

Please come to the next Church Family Prayer meeting when **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** will be our main focus.

Monday 1 February

7.30pm in church



Facts and figures

- ~ Over 170 people completed questionnaires for the Spring 2015 consultation
- ~ In all well over 200 people gave their views in the Spring consultation
- ~ over 40 people wrote to us with their comments and many others spoke with us about the revised plans in Autumn 2015



Get in touch...

If you would like to find out more or if you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the church office on **0117 973 6524** or email **office@ccweb.org.uk** or **renew@ccweb.org.uk**

Continue to pray

Prayer must be the foundation of all we do. Jesus told us to build on the solid rock of hearing his words and putting them into practice. We need to underpin all our planning with prayer. And as we listen to him we are connecting ourselves with the Creator, the greatest designer of all time, and seeking his plan for Christ Church and Clifton. Please include **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** in your personal prayers, in small groups and in any other group to which you belong. We need your prayers!

You can find out more by visiting the **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** website
www.renewchristchurch.org

The site contains the latest plans and the findings from the Spring 2015 Consultations. Other documents will be added as **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** progresses.

The team

The **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** Team is:

Roberto Elvira - *Senior Lay Pastor*
Richard Fajer - *Project Manager, Gleeds*
Paul Langham - *Vicar*
Andy Macpherson - *Volunteer*
Mark Parsons - *Operations Manager*
Jan Tyrrell - *Volunteer*

There is also a **Communications Team** sub-group:

Roberto Elvira - *Senior Lay Pastor*
Tim Meathrel - *Associate Vicar*
Mark Orriss - *Volunteer and Design Consultant*
Mark Parsons - *Operations Manager*
Jan Tyrrell - *Volunteer*

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