

Welcome to

# re:news

issue 5

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

## In this issue of re:news

- **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** moves forward
- The draft plans
- Crypt facts and figures
- The Crypt in action
- What happens next?
- The RENEW team

## RENEWchristchurch moves forward

The vision for refurbishing the church building has been developing over a number of years. The last major refurbishment of the building took place in the 1980s and 90s and the fabric of the church now needs updating badly. In 2015, concept plans were drawn up for all three floors of the building with the aim of 'transforming the church for a new season of growth'. The project was named **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH**.

### 2015 consultation

A wide consultation was undertaken with the church family and the wider community in 2015 to guide the development of the plans. Some of the most frequently voiced requests were for:

- *brighter, lighter spaces, especially in the Crypt;*
- *improved access for those who are less able both when entering the building and moving around within it;*
- *more visibility within the community;*
- *facilities that are of more service to the community;*
- *a church that is open during the day and available to all.*

This consultation led to an overall plan for the development of the whole building which was agreed in principle by the PCC in November 2015.

### Phase 1

As a first step, the PCC agreed to go ahead with providing the facilities for opening a coffee shop in the church. This would allow the church to be open during the day and would create a place to welcome visitors from the community who might not normally come into the church building. The Spire opened to the public early in 2017.

Over the two years since opening, we have watched a new community grow around The Spire. Most of the people who use The Spire regularly are not people who come into the church on a Sunday but they have become part of the wider church family. Many new relationships have been forged in The Spire. We want to see these new community links grow and grow.

### Phase 2

Following further consultation **RENEWCHRISTCHURCH** is now ready to move into its next phase - Phase 2. This will bring:

- *a much needed refurbishment of the Crypt;*
- *an improved, better equipped kitchen;*
- *better access including a lift between the Crypt and ground floor;*
- *more toilets;*
- *a brand new room in the Crypt visible to the community from outside;*
- *some natural light to the Crypt.*

The latest draft plans have been shown to those who lead ministries and activities in the Crypt. Their comments will help the architects make adjustments to the design before the revised plans are submitted to Bristol City Council in early May for planning permission. See the latest plans on pages 2 and 3.

For more details please visit [www.renewchristchurch.org](http://www.renewchristchurch.org)

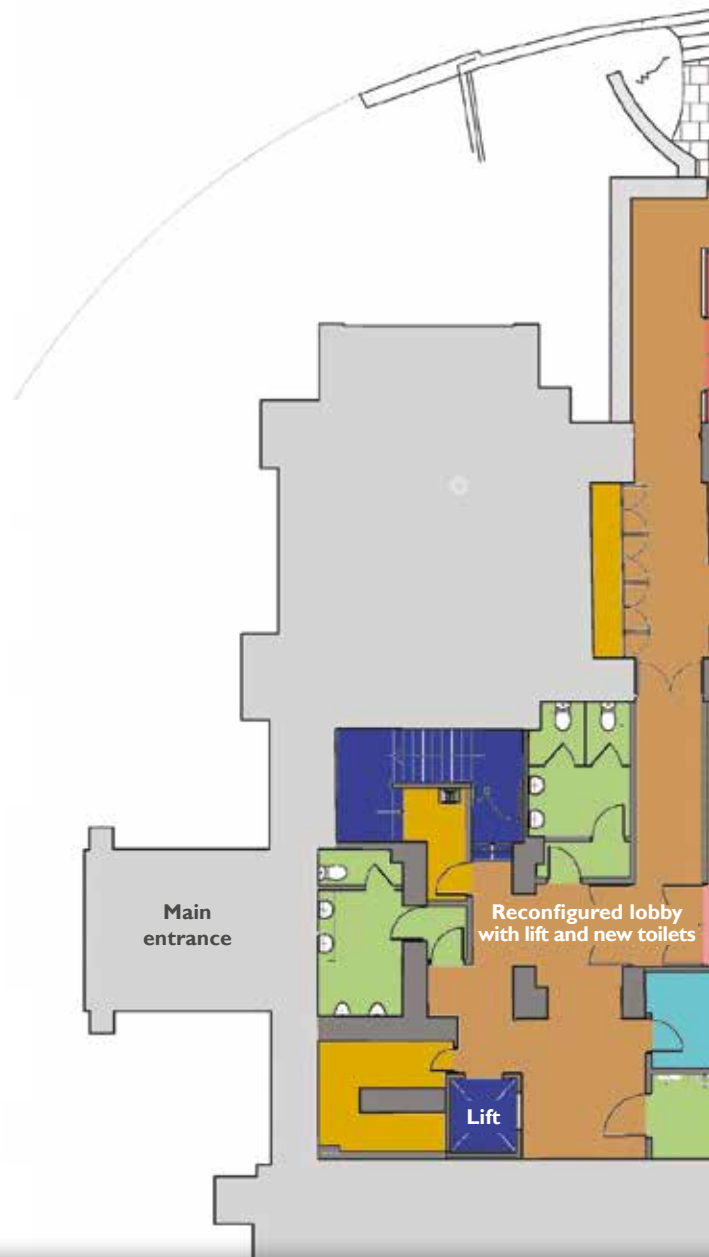


## The draft plans

This shows the draft scheme for the Crypt. The colour key will help you identify the different spaces. The draft plans do not yet contain much detail. The detail will be worked up in consultation with Crypt users as the plans develop.

## Things to look out for

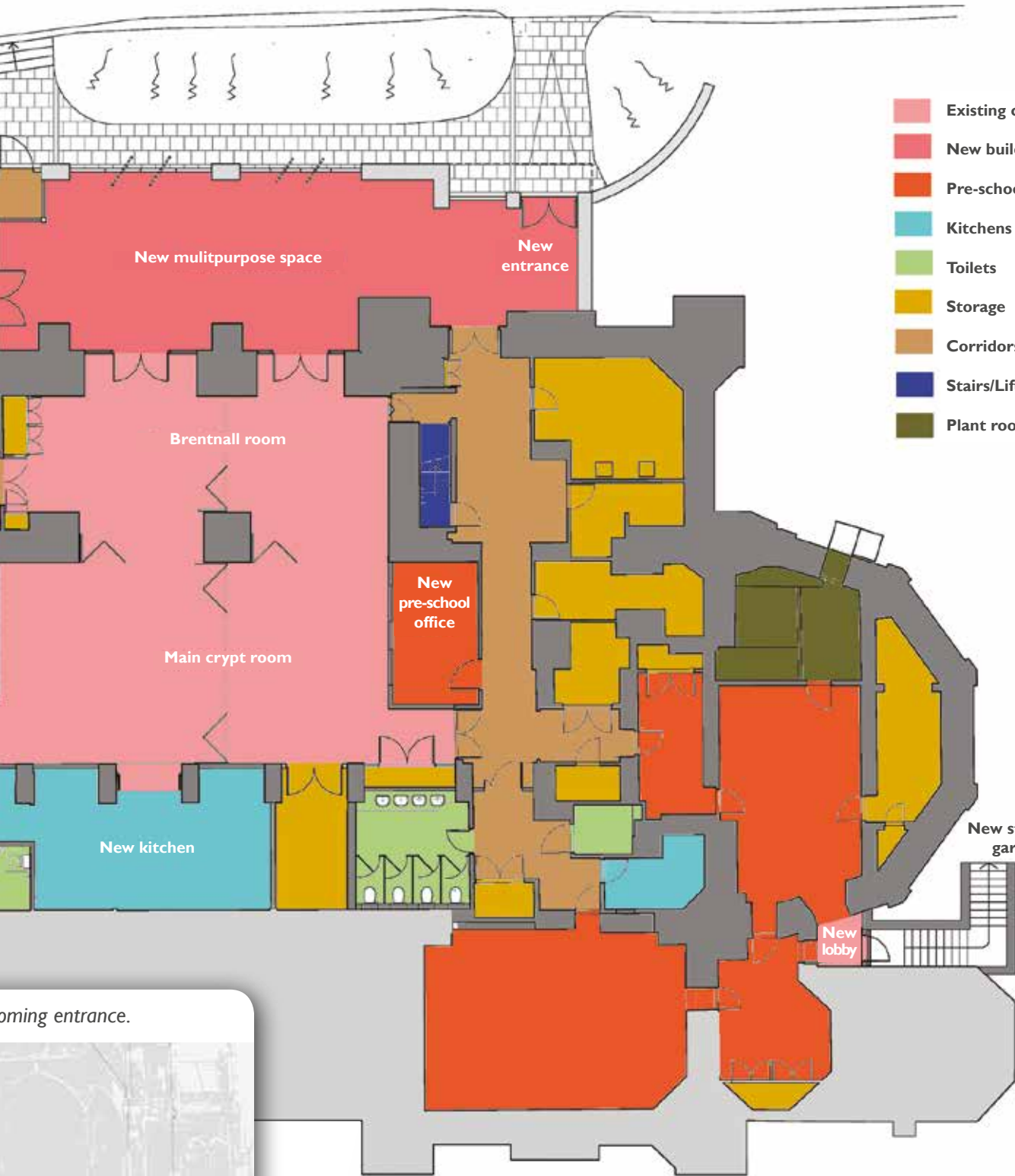
- The walls will be knocked down between the main Crypt room and the Brentall room, although significant weight bearing pillars will remain (coloured grey). New room dividers will allow the space to be used as anything from one to four different rooms.
- A new room built on the front will provide additional space, and as the exterior wall of this room is largely made of glass, natural light will be able to flood into the front of the Crypt.
- Notice also the new toilets, a separate Ladies and Gents, and a new disabled toilet. Notice also that most of the surfaces will be levelled so that there are no steps acting as a hindrance to free movement.
- A useful corridor is planned to run down the side of the rooms to provide easy access without having to pass through rooms that are occupied.
- The lift will be situated where the current cleaning cupboard is sited. The lift is positioned here to allow it to fit with plans to take it up to a future mezzanine floor proposed as part of the overall plan for developing the building.
- Notice too that the Pre-school will have a new staircase to reach their garden which is less steep and will be much easier for the small children to use. There will be a new lobby in front of this exit.



This drawing shows the new Crypt room as viewed from Clifton Park Road. Notice the large expanse of glass and the more welcoming appearance.

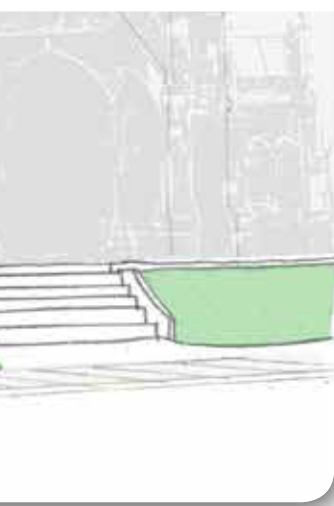


Clifton Park Road



- Existing crypt rooms
- New build
- Pre-school rooms
- Kitchens
- Toilets
- Storage
- Corridors
- Stairs/Lift
- Plant room

coming entrance.



## Crypt facts & figures

The original Crypt development that created a usable space under the church took place in 1975/6 and cost £60,000; the equivalent today of about £500,000. £24,000 of the cost was given directly by the church members at a time when the annual giving was £28,000.

The extension of the Crypt in 1990 to create the Hallam and Emmanuel Rooms cost £320,000; equivalent to about £750,000 today. Most of the funds for this came from a legacy.

## The crypt in action

Do you know how many activities take place in the Crypt? The Crypt is a well-used space but it could provide even better facilities. Below is a list of some of the regular activities that would benefit from the refurbishment:

- A popular Pre-school
- Coffee mornings for Pre-school parents
- Toddlers
- Brownies
- Sunday Kid's church
- Meeting Point for young people
- Preparations for the Breakfast Run for the homeless
- Men Behaving Dadly
- Sunday's United
- The Community Centre for seniors
- Music lessons
- A song writers group
- The International Group gatherings
- Seniors Sunday Lunch
- Courses such as the Marriage Course and Alpha

With new facilities, what else could be added to this list?



## 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 **01 17 973 6524** or email **office@ccweb.org.uk** or **renew@ccweb.org.uk**

## What happens next?

- An application is submitted for planning permission in early May. This can be a long process but we hope to have a decision by August.
- At the same time, the scheme will be further refined and a Faculty Application will be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- Over the next few months we will be developing a fund raising strategy to start the process of raising the necessary money. Our surveyors estimate that the project should be deliverable within £2 million. We already have £650,000 in designated funds.
- Subject to planning permissions and fundraising, we hope to start building work in January 2020.

We offer these estimates in good faith, advised by our professional team, but circumstances can change.

## The RENEW team

The PCC has set up a Renew Client Team which reports to the PCC to guide it through the project. This team is chaired by Mike Innes and currently includes:

**Mike Innes - Chair**

**Paul Langham**

**Mark Parsons**

**Paddy Sykes**

**Simon Hygate**

**Jan Tyrrell**

We expect the team to grow as further skills are required.

The team is supported by a Professional Team of architects and surveyors.

**RENEWCHRISTCHURCH**  
[www.renewchristchurch.org](http://www.renewchristchurch.org)

