

ST JAMES' PCC AWAY DAY 2015

Saturday 21st November 2015 @ St Augustine's Highbury New Park

The main aim of the day was to consider our buildings and how they might be developed for future mission and ministry.

The day began with a time of sung worship and Revd Johan Allen shared from Scripture.

'The Good, the Bad & the Ugly'

Groups were asked to consider the question: *'How are our buildings both enabling and limiting our mission and ministry at present?'*

Summary of Responses

A. CHURCH

Positive

Stained Glass
Traditional Style & feel
Dais
Pews
Chapel
Space, good size
Location
Inviting
Children's Area
Screen
Familiarity

Negative

Heating, cold
Flooring
Lack of private areas
Lack of flexibility
Seating – pews
Lighting, dark & gloomy
Décor, dreary
Sound
Visibility Issues
H & S Issues – window leading
Costly to run
Disabled Access
Balcony space unused
Fire Escape
Chapel under-used
Lack of storage
Screen
Building under-used
Lack of Buggy space

B. CHURCH CENTRE

Positive

Well used
Good social space
Reasonably flexible
Newish Kitchen
Warm & cosy
Welcoming space
Good décor
Lighting

Negative

Loft space unused
Drab, dreary
More natural light needed
Kitchen too small
Toilets
Centre too small – outgrown purpose
External lighting poor
Disability access
Crack in lobby
Entrances unwelcoming
Ceiling tiles
Carpet
Poor lighting in entrance
Noisy heating
Baby changing facilities
Underused – not enough income
Not a community resource
Safeguarding (toilet area)

C. UPPER HALL

Positive

Large, nice space
Nice floor
Light & bright
Income generator
Used by community
Stage
Windows
Well used
Heating
Noise limiter
Natural sound
High ceiling
Flexible space
Good storage
Good front door

Negative

Stage
Underused rooms
Storage limited
Landscaping & railings
Leaking roof
H & S Issues
Toilets
Disabled Access
Fire Escape
Noise issues with neighbours
Not welcoming
Lighting on stairwell
Steps
Kitchen not fit for purpose
Back room too small
Lack of stage curtains
Lack of curtains or blinds for windows
Problems with 'tower'
Security issues
Décor shabby inside & out
Stage not fit for purpose
Inside doors in poor condition

D. LOWER HALL

Positive

Heating
Kitchen/bar area
Youth like the space
Income generator?
Mission - FYC
The Green – well used
Lighting
Comfy space
Fit for purpose
Good facilities
Flooring
Windows
Security
Décor
Projector & screen
Stage
New furniture
Welcoming space
3 separate sections

Negative

The Green
Damp
Disabled Access
Toilets
No Office Space
Guttering
Ventilation
No private area for 1-2-1
Not enough storage
Under resourced
Fire escape

Architect's Reports

Nick Burt gave a summary of the recent architect's reports on the church and halls, highlighting in particular the most urgent items, categorised as 'A' and 'B' in the reports (see separate paper).

Future Possibilities

Nick Burt presented a discussion paper outlining various scenarios for the future (see separate paper). Groups were asked to consider the scenarios and report back.

Summary of Responses

Be radical!

Need buildings fit for purpose.

New build and sell off land to fund it.

Any development must cover all future mission needs – long term planning required.

What are implications for Team Ministry?

Explore idea of creating a basement/crypt area under church.

Do 'A' items on architect's reports asap, focus on essential & H & S items.

St Paul's Vicarage to become Furzedown Rectory?

Hall – generates enough income and is sufficiently well used to merit money being spent on repairs.

Enclose Side Chapel in glass – sound-proofed.

Remove foyer into Church Centre - come straight in.

Just doing repairs as and when is NOT an option – need added value.

If we sell the Halls it would provide funding for redevelopment, but would possible housing have an undue influence on the church?

How do we fund any radical development without selling something?

Create potential in existing church building for new spaces, redecorate and deal with issues on reports.

Create split level church building with everything we need – sell Halls to fund it.

Make sure we do what GOD calls us to do!

Convert Halls into half flats and half hall space.

Radical re-ordering and/or extending church.

Possibly some new build on The Green.

Possibly demolish or sell off halls.

The St Augustine's Story

Two members of St Augustine's Highbury shared the story of their recent redevelopment.

Next Steps

The group brainstormed possible next steps in the process. The following suggestions were made:

- Pray – including 'in touch', dedicated prayer meetings, use of dedicated space in prayer corner.
- Share with those who missed the Away Day.
- Share with congregation – dedicated service in January 2016?
- Include other users in consultation process – church groups, community, Parish Audit, Team, MLBC?
- PCC to work on a Statement of Needs as a first step towards a Feasibility Study.
- Address most urgent 'A' items asap.

The day concluded with a celebration of Holy Communion.