

FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE...

An opportunity to give - March/April 2024



Newport Pagnell
Baptist Church
Building Development

building a place
where community
can thrive

Dear Church family,

In December, our church family voted overwhelmingly to push ahead with Phase 1 of the building development, along with the replacement of the roof and windows in the main hall.

As we took that decision, we also each committed to play our part in giving to make it happen. We have already seen increases in monthly giving since that point and we remain grateful to everyone who has given or continues to give to the project. Thank you.

Now, as planned, and alongside all the incredible work that is going into raising funds from other sources, we are starting a campaign to raise the remaining funds needed.

Originally, this meant an appeal in March/April this year, and another in 2025. However, in order to allow us to focus on the build itself and begin thinking about what we do when we get there, we feel God is calling us to raise or pledge the total remaining amount of £453,000 now.

We know that this is a lot of money.

But we believe God has given us so much, including everything we own.

Now it's our chance to give it back to Him, to see His Kingdom grow.

This short pack tells you everything you need to know, as well as highlighting other places you can go to find more information.

As always, if you have any questions, or would like to talk or pray through what the right option might be for you, any of the elders or Building Development Group will be happy to speak confidentially with you.

With love and prayers,

Steve, Peter, the Elders and the Building Development Group

10 STEP SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT TO DATE

1

Our building development project began 10+ years ago, and it's been 5 years since the church agreed to move ahead with Phase 1 of the build. There are 4 planned phases in total.

2

On Sunday 10 December, 90% of participating Church members - supported by the wider church family, including children and young people - voted overwhelmingly to push ahead with Phase 1 of the building development, along with the now vital replacement of the roof and windows in the main hall.

3

All of this is in response to the fact that our existing building is no longer fit for purpose, with increasing problems over sustainability, accessibility, efficiency and safety.

4

This is coupled with the fact that the existing building no longer has the space to meet the demands of a growing church and community:

- we now have 300-350 people engaging with NPBC in our Sunday services and life groups.
- there are 6,000+ new homes already planned (and now being built), increasing our immediate population by at least 15,000.

5

The redevelopment will meet the need for increased space, greater flexibility of space and an improved quality of space. This begins with Phase 1 which allows for the demolition of the oldest part of the building (constructed in the 1940s) including the Tickford Room, kitchen, chapel and storage area and replaces it with a two-storey structure with more than double the space.

6

This first phase is the most transformative of the whole redevelopment, providing a new, spacious foyer; significant additional meeting room space; a new modernised kitchen; full disabled access; and a new plant room.

10 STEP SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT TO DATE

7 The main hall refurbishment was initially planned to be in Phase 4 of the redevelopment. However, following recent professional advice, we have brought forward the replacement of the main hall roof, internal suspended ceiling and windows, as well as the installation of energy-saving solar panels.

8 The funding of the main hall refurbishment and Phase 1 remains on track, with considerable work going into several applications for significant grant funding. It also assumes that we continue to meet our giving targets, which is the aim of this fundraising campaign in March/April 2024.

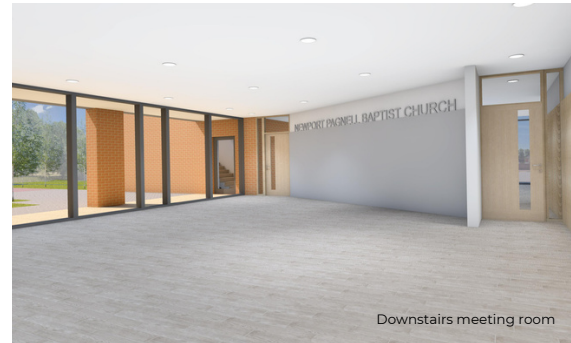
9 Planning permission for the refurbishment of the main hall roof and windows, and installation of solar panels, was obtained in January. An updated planning application for the full 4-phase project is currently under review with a decision expected by the end of April at the very latest.

10 We have a clear timeline that takes account of the planning application and includes key funding checkpoints. Achieving these milestones would mean build dates of:

- Main Hall - July-September 2024
- Phase 1 - May 2025-April 2026

OUR DREAMS FOR THE PROJECT

A BUILDING THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS



INCREASED SPACE FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY TO THRIVE

Demolition of the oldest part of the building, including the Tickford Room, kitchen, chapel and storage area, replaced with a two-storey structure.

- new, spacious foyer, offering a warm welcome and communal space to meet
- significant additional meeting room space, for Sunday morning groups, Life groups, and all our weekly activities
- a new modernised kitchen, enabling improved catering for events
- full disabled access lift and toilet;
- new plant room, efficiently serving and heating the entire building, including installation of air source heat pump for sustainability.

INCREASED SPACE FOR OUR WIDER COMMUNITY TO THRIVE

All of the above benefitting our local community who will be able to book these new spaces at times when the church isn't using them.

A JOURNEY AS GOD'S PEOPLE TOGETHER

Getting to this point has already been quite a journey, testing our faith in God. We have learnt so much about what it means to trust, listen, love and give to Him. As we look to the journey ahead, and all that God is going to do through his people, and through this building, we can be sure He has so much more planned for us.

THE COST OF THE PROJECT

Build Costs	Phase 1	Main Hall	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total cost of works	3,980	530	4,510
Raised to date	1,281	0	1,281
Balance still to raise	2,699	530	3,229

Funds raised from Church family	Phase 1	Main Hall	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital appeals ¹	343	110	453
Monthly giving ²	256	-	256
Gift aid on above	115	20	135
Community fundraising	35	-	35
Congregational loans ³	340	-	340

Funds raised from other sources	Phase 1	Main Hall	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Main loan ⁴	1,250	-	1250
External Trusts ⁵	203	400	603
Corporates / Gifts in kind	75	-	75
Interest	82	-	82

Notes:

1. The focus of this giving campaign.
2. We have a target to increase our monthly giving from £8,900 now to £9,500 by May 2025
3. These are loans made voluntarily by church family, and paid back at 0% in line with terms agreed with each donor.
4. Main loan is funded over 15 years by ongoing monthly giving.
5. Funding from external trusts is not guaranteed and subject to significant factors outside of our control.

It is important to note that the current costing includes significant contingency and inflationary adjustments which, if they did not materialise, could provide an opportunity of approximately £450k.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

When we came together as a church family and discerned that it was God's heart for NPBC to continue moving forward with the project, we collectively committed to play our part through prayer and giving.

We might think that we are giving to a church building project. However, the truth is that we are choosing to give to God in response to everything He has already given us.

"Use your money to do good... being ready to share what God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven – and it's the only safe investment for eternity! And you'll be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well." (1 Timothy 6:19 – LB)



The amount we are each able to give will vary greatly according to our means. But Jesus clearly teaches it is the level of sacrifice, not the amount of money, that pleases God (Luke 21:1-4).

For some people that might mean giving £50, for another £500, for another £5000, and another £50,000. It is not about equal giving, but it is about equal sacrifice.

Ask God to show you creative ways of giving. All contributions are valuable, however large or small, and it is worth considering how much a monthly sacrifice adds up to over a whole year. For example, one large cappuccino a week, over a year, will raise approximately £150.

Seek God and ask him for a figure you can contribute. Often the first figure that comes to our minds is very manageable but we shouldn't be afraid to step out. Our goal should be to give what God is asking of us, not simply what is left at the end of the month.

HOW DO I MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GIVE?

Once you are sure you know what God is asking of you (and, if you have a family, that you are all agreed) follow the simple steps on the cards provided to make a gift. If you have any questions at all related to your giving - e.g. how you might maximise your Gift Aid - we have people who will happily speak to you confidentially.

A 3X3 GIVING OPPORTUNITY

To help making our giving to this campaign as easy and effective as possible, we have divided the ask into 3 lots of 3.

THE 3 MILESTONES WE ARE AIMING FOR

- 1** Target: £110,000
This amount given by the end of April 2024 will enable us to:
 - plan and start the work on the main hall roof, windows, and solar panels in the summer.
- 2** Target: £300,000
This amount given by the end of April 2024 will enable us to:
 - plan and start the work on the main hall roof, windows, and solar panels in the summer.
 - stay on track for the Phase 1 redevelopment.
- 3** Target: £453,000
This amount given by the end of April 2024 will enable us to:
 - plan and start the work on the main hall roof, windows, and solar panels in the summer.
 - stay on track for the Phase 1 redevelopment.
 - focus on both of the above, without the need for an additional appeal in 2025.

THE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

- 1** a lump sum now
- 2** a pledge to give a lump sum between now and next April
- 3** via monthly standing order, to increase our monthly giving from £8.9k to £9.5k, maintained to fund the repayment of the BU loans.

THE 3 PLACES YOU CAN CHOOSE FOR YOUR MONEY TO GO

- 1** Wherever the money is needed most for the building project.
(This is our preference)
- 2** To help fund the Phase 1 redevelopment of the building.
- 3** To help fund the main hall roof, windows, and solar panels.

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU THINK ABOUT GIVING

We know that this is a lot of money and, as we've already said, our heart is for everyone to give sacrificially according to their means.

To help us imagine what this might look like, the table below provides an example of the type of gifts we'd need in order to reach the target of £453,000. Of course, the gifts may not match these exact amounts, but it should provide a guide as to where and how much God is calling you to give.

Number of households	Amount donated	Total
2	£50,000	£100,000
6	£15,000 - 25,000	£120,000
12	£8,000 - 12,000	£120,000
12	£4,000 - 6,000	£60,000
17	£1,000 - 3,000	£34,000
48	<£1,000	£19,200
97	-	£453,200

Wherever and however you choose to give, we are grateful for your willingness to respond to God in this way.

A REMINDER OF THE TIMELINE

An outline plan of the journey ahead and the key milestones along the way.

2024

March / April Giving campaign - end date: Monday 15 April

April

- MK Council decision on planning application for all 4 phases
- Communication of plan for location / shape of meetings during summer 2024 refurbishment.

May

Hall refurbishment funding checkpoint:

- Review of the funding / pledges required to sign contract?
- Decision on what can be delivered and when.

July

1/7 - Subject to funding, building closes for refurbishment of main hall roof and windows.
NB. Certain parts of the building will still be accessible at different stages of the project.

October

6/10 - First Sunday back in the newly refurbished building

Phase 1 Funding checkpoint:

In order to go out to tender:

- April giving campaign: at least £300k pledged or received
- External Trust funding on track
- Monthly giving on track
- BU Loan confirmed

2025

April

Phase 1 Funding checkpoint:

In order to sign contract:

- Full giving campaign target (£453k) now received
- Monthly giving on track / exceeding £9,500 + Gift Aid
- Congregational loans in place

May

1/5 - Subject to funding, building closes for Phase 1 redevelopment. Certain parts of the building (inc. the main hall) will be accessible after approx. 3 months

27 MARCH - A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

As you've read this document, the chances are you are already wondering how you should respond.

Whilst we've tried to give you some guidance and inspiration to help you, we don't want to be prescriptive. Instead, we really want to encourage you to pause and spend some time with God, so that He can lead you.

That's why we're calling the whole church to a time of fasting and prayer together on **Wednesday 27 March** - a day when we can all come before God and ask what gift we might each bring.

We have chosen this particular day as it is the Wednesday of Holy Week, the day that Jesus is said to have been anointed with an expensive perfume in the days before his crucifixion (see Matthew 26:6-13). We'll send out more details nearer the time, but for now we simply ask you to mark the date in your diary, and perhaps take the time to read these few thoughts about the woman that Matthew chose not to name.

*We wonder at this unnamed woman,
who is an example of life in the kingdom,
one shaped by service - her focus is on Jesus, not herself.
Of course the one she serves comes ultimately not to be served,
but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.
At the beginning of the passion narrative,
she is a sign of truth and of hope.
A sign of truth in that she prepares us for the death of Jesus-
she confronts the reality;
and a sign of hope in that Jesus says the gospel will be proclaimed
and she will be remembered.*

*We wonder at this unnamed woman,
whose short moment in the story
breaks into our world and pours out love
leaving a question that resounds every year:
what is the beautiful thing we are being called to do?*

WHAT NEXT?

Thank you for taking the time to read through this summary document.
Now, we'd simply ask that you do three things:

1 Pray. Continue to bring the whole project to God in prayer, that we might move together in our giving.

2 Set aside Wednesday 27 March to join with others in a day of praying and fasting, as we each seek God's heart for our giving.

3 Consider and commit, using the card provided, as to how you can support the project:

- With a lump sum now or pledged in support of the giving campaign -
- With a commitment to regular monthly giving -
- With a gift in your will -

Thank you.



For more details and to read the full proposal
visit www.npbc.org.uk

If you have a question, please ask any member of the team or
email us at building@npbc.org.uk