



Update 1 March 2026

Psalms 127 v1 – unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain

Organisation - We have renamed the “The New Build Team” to the “New Hall Steering Group”, as there will shortly be some new working groups created. We also have a logo and colour scheme (branding) due to the significance of the project and the amount of work going on and identify meeting notes and documents.

Site Visit - We recently went on a visit to Oxford and got to see a couple of the architects’ previous projects and look at some ideas for building/construction methods – the most encouraging part of the visit for me was seeing a church project that cost £3million that had been completed, funded by their congregation, and being used to great effect. Our project is achievable and realistic!

Information - We are keeping the display board in the current fellowship centre up to date with pictures of the activities taking place to grow awareness and stimulate conversation.

Planning Process - We met with the architect and looked at timelines and next steps – 6 months to get a planning application in and average 6 months to get a response (may be more, but it means that within a year we could have planning permission to start our build!).

Building Methods - We are having the site reviewed to check what building techniques we can use – before we get too caught up in discussing methods that aren’t actually possible.

Surveys - The feedback from our pre-app application last year identified that we need to get some surveys done to reduce risk with the full planning application – archaeology, transport consultant, Drainage/civils consultant, Ecology/biodiversity. We’ve completed some research and set some protocols for this (use local companies to grow awareness of the project, reduce environmental impact and support local business whilst looking for the cheapest to stay within the budget). Quotes are being sought for now by the architect.

Community Involvement - We are engaging with the Construction and Civil Engineering departments at Bedford College who have offered to do 3D scans of our current building and drone surveys of the site – to grow community engagement and support young people. This should also provide good evidence for grant applications.

Next steps

APCM – we want to do a big section on the New Hall plans and do a call for people to get involved – so please encourage people to attend!

Frilford Golf Clubhouse Shop



St Andrew’s Oxford Church Hall





Short section on progress so far – then detail of what is happening. Big section on what we need and how people can get involved:

- Prayer
- Talking to people outside of church,
- Media team – website, social media
- Fundraising – Finance committee for events, grant applications, sponsored activities – need people who can write grant applications, come up with ideas (and facilitate) events, network with community, companies and high profile figures

Funding - The surveys and current design work are likely to use up the funds we have available (Margaret Aldis Bequest). After planning permission is granted we will have 3 years to make a meaningful start on the build, so we need to raise some Finance which is going to need a group of people working together and looking for opportunities and ways to give.

This fundraising however must not be at the expense of normal church activities, all events must be approved in advance and an agreed giving platform must be used so individuals are not handling money.

There are lots of opportunities to raise finance – individual giving will play a part but giving schemes can multiply the value of these gifts. Various companies offer their employees grants for charities and there are a range of foundations offering grants for charities and community projects.

What Next? - We are meeting with Charles from MEB next Friday – he is currently testing the existing plans against the topographical survey to make sure it will work. We have fed to him all of the feedback from the congregation to make sure the design reflects our needs

St Andrew's Oxford Church Hall Crèche & Main Hall with movable folding walls

