

Why a Development?

Our Church is 85 years old and represents the legacy of those who, through faithful self-sacrifice and prayerful determination, aspired to build 'The Church in the Woods'. Such was their vision that today the front elevation of our church is considered of special architectural interest and is thus protected. Of far more importance, Stanborough Park Church has not only been a continuous witness and place of worship but also a springboard for so many who have gone on to commit their life's service to the Lord at home and overseas.

Word from the Pastor

I am pleased to introduce the first of a planned series of 'News Sheets' aimed at keeping the Church better informed about the plans for the Sanctuary. I know that for some, the proposed structural changes are not considered necessary; while for others the plans are more readily welcomed and embraced. As these different points of view converge the consequences are often challenging! Let's, embrace each other's differences as a community of believers to bring about a new kind of vibrancy and spirituality.

The more I hear, engage in conversation, participate in fundraising initiatives and in planning, the more I believe that God is moving this wonderful Church into a new dawn of witnessing and evangelism. I have experienced excitement as the possibilities for evangelism arising from the planned improvements have been identified. I am excited by the fact that we will finally provide access to people with disabilities in all parts of the Church facility.

I know from experience how change can test the resolve of even the most faithful. That is why I urge each and every one of you to place this project in prayer before the Lord, not least because this is His church and His centre for witnessing to the community around us and not just another place for people to meet. I believe that by allowing ourselves to be led by God we will gain a greater focus on growing His kingdom. My desire for Stanborough Park Church is that as we look back after the completion of this project, we will, with grateful hearts, recognise our Lord's leading and in His strength look forward to making Him known to the community.

*Blessings,
Jacques Venter*

It is 30 years since last the Sanctuary was refurbished and while cherished by its members there is no doubt that improvement is long overdue.

This was certainly the view expressed in 2011 when members were canvassed about their aspirations for such improvements and the following priorities identified.

- Increased & more comfortable seating
- Wider & more flexible platform
- Improved visibility of platform
- More natural & improved lighting
- More effective climate control

We have already seen how the Stanborough Centre has contributed hugely to our outreach initiatives and the benefits of our new central entrance as an enhancement to the Sanctuary. What do visitors see through this doorway? How representative is the space where we worship the creator of the universe Sabbath by Sabbath? How suitable is it for evangelistic outreach?

What is actually being proposed?

- A radical extension to the ground floor of the Sanctuary, including increased seating capacity, new flooring, new pews, and new baptistry.
- Improved natural light through new windows in the ceiling and at the sides of the new platform, new lighting and air conditioning.
- A multi purpose Pastoral Centre

- The installation of a lift providing access to the full facility for the first time, funded by a legacy arising from Stanley Maxwell's estate.
- New Audio Visual Control Centre & Organ.
- New male and female toilets and changing facilities and toilet for baptismal candidates.
- A new minister's vestry and deaconesses' vestry, with a section for flower arrangers.
- Redesigned balcony - improved visibility of the platform.
- Additional rooms for Sabbath School classes and other uses during the week.
- Renovations to the Williams Hall, including a new kitchen.

Are we losing seating?

Currently seating in the sanctuary is provided through pews plus approx. 50 chairs in the old sub-gallery. The plan is to replace all existing seating with pews. The comparison is:

| | Current | New |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Total Pew length | 668 feet | 792 feet |
| Chairs | 50 | none |

The additional 124 feet of pews estimate to afford seating for 68, 18 more than the chairs.

In addition there will be 4 spaces for wheelchairs as well as increased seating space on the platform for special services and events.

How much will it cost?

The following estimates were compiled by the Treasurer for the Business Meeting held in July 2013 and approved:

| | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Reconstruction costs from Cosmur | £1,119,064.00 | | |
| Additional provision (contingency) | £30,000.00 | | |
| | | Sub-total | £1,149,064.00 |
| Professional Fees | £121,473.00 | | |
| Less fees paid to date | (£50,775.00) | | |
| | | Sub-total | £70,698.00 |
| VAT @ 20% | | | £243,952.00 |
| Additional costs (VAT included) | | | |
| Seating and platform furniture | £80,000.00 | | |
| Additional Audio Visual Equipment | £30,000.00 | | |
| Marquee rental | £20,000.00 | | |
| | | Sub-total | £130,000.00 |
| Total Cost | | | £1,593,714.00 |

How will the Project be Funded?

The Project is funded as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Development Fund | £440,000 |
| Reserve Funds | £30,000 |
| South England Conference Grant | £100,000 |
| HSBC Loan | £550,000 |
| British Union Grant | £150,000 |
| Bequest advanced by the BUC | £35,000 |
| Total Funds Held | £1,305,000 |

What's Happening Now?

There are four Task Groups currently working on key aspects of the work. These Groups are almost ready to report to Church Board via the Development Committee. Final proposals will be brought to the church for approval, hopefully at the end of September. The groups are:

- **Lift:** led by Brian Davidson
- **Organ:** led by Brian Combridge
- **Décor:** led by Carol Godfrey
- **Pews:** led by Simon Ware

Where shall we worship during the building works?

Refurbishment is planned to take nine months. Every effort will be made to limit disruption to our worship services and the day to day activities of our church. Our aim is to ensure we remain united as a church family and continue to worship and fellowship in one place.

Have your say

Do you have a question? Do you want to express a concern?

This is your opportunity to do so and be assured your responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and when discussed will remain un-attributable. Please respond in writing to a member of the Pastoral Team or by email to the following address: knopkierie.uk@gmail.com

In the next edition: Progress to date; Future timetable for decisions

Is it affordable?

This figure represents a shortfall of £288,714. The Fund Raising Committee plans to raise £320,000 through a wide range of initiatives including a Flower Festival, planned for September.

The bank loan repayments are estimated at £6,150 per month payable over a period of ten years and funded through gift aid returns. Members are encouraged to give support through the monthly development offering and to return pledges.

In 2000 the Stanborough Centre cost £1,25m equivalent to £1,6m in today's money, yet we raised the funds and repaid the loan in 3 years, through Gods' blessing and generous support of the members. Today it is estimated that the cost of the Centre would be in excess of £3m.

For those who attend Parallel services, there will be no change; worship will continue in the Cedar Sycamore Room. Similarly, the Centre will continue to be used for Sabbath School Classes. Meanwhile, the main worship service will take place in a purpose built and heated, temporary facility erected in the church car park.

The loss of car parking space will be off-set by arrangements that are currently being made with the BUC regarding the use of Stanborough Park. Spaces around the church will be prioritised for blue badge holders, elderly members and families with young children.

A Message from our Pastor

A few months have now passed since the last Development News Sheet and I want to say thank you to all those who made a response. Many have either spoken or written to me. Some comments have come with a sense of excitement regarding what we will be able to do in the future. While others expressed concern, asked questions and raised issues that have really helped the Development Committee focus.

We have done our best to address your questions but we also recognise that some we will only be able to answer in due course. For example, the Project was last costed nearly two years ago and with the passing of time previous estimates will have inevitably changed. The only way the Development Committee can obtain clarity on this is to get the architectural plan to a point where it can be put out to tender. Subsequent responses will provide the most up to date and realistic picture for the Church.

I can assure you that the members you have elected to the Development Committee have been working tirelessly in recent weeks to make this happen. The deadline for commencing the tendering process has been set for the end of December, with responses expected approximately 9 -10 weeks later.

Another important matter arising from your feedback since the last newsletter concerns the relationship between our evangelistic vision and the Project; an aspect of planning that appears, to some at least, to have been neglected.

Dear friends, I believe we will fall short of our heavenly calling, 'to go and make disciples of others', if we don't consider this matter urgently. Before we can even imagine and dream big evangelistically for the new development, I call upon you to dream and envision big evangelistically *now!*

I have called together a small team that will meet with the new Pastoral Team on a regular basis in the coming months to start building on the wonderful outreach that is already taking place. I have a very strong belief that God has mighty things ahead for us if we will allow Him to use us as His arms to reach out; His mouth to share His Word and His heart to love those He brings across our paths. I would like to challenge you to look beyond mere bricks and mortar to the endless opportunities God has in store for us if we are willing to take the leap of faith necessary now. I invite you to participate in this initial exercise of dreaming and envisioning by writing to me and sharing your thoughts regarding this.

I also hope that you will appreciate this update we have prepared. We will continue to make further news of developments available in the future and at the Business Meeting planned for January. Please continue to pray for the Project as without prayer nothing would be to the glory of God.

God Bless
Pastor Jacques

News from the Development Committee

Since the publication of the first edition of the 'News Sheet' the Development Committee has continued to progress plans for the refurbishment of the Sanctuary in accordance with the mandate it received from the Business Meeting held last July.

We can now report on the following:

- Towards the acquisition of new pews
- Location of the lift for disabled members and visitors
- The proposed move of the AV Dept. to the tower
- Emerging design of the new vestry spaces
- Moving forward

New Pews

The small team responsible for planning the acquisition of new pews, having determined the most desirable specification have now sought tenders from 4 suppliers: 2 based in the UK, the 3rd in the USA and a 4th in Ireland. The responses should be received by 31 December 2013.

The aim has been to secure a layout which, on the ground floor affords a central isle and overall is more conducive to worship. This, by allowing greater space between each pew for those who wish to kneel for prayer. **(See Stop Press- page 2)**

Lift for the disabled

After much deliberation and having taken advice from architects and engineers it has been decided to locate this facility at the end of the corridor opposite the current entrance to the minister's vestry. (See plan overleaf).

The lift will be for the use specifically of those unable to use the stairs and is not intended as a general purpose lift. It will thus provide access to the upper floor of both the Church and Centre where, in terms of the latter, a ramp will be located to facilitate access to the upper level of the Centre.

As a consequence of the location of the lift a new corridor will be created running parallel with the Williams Hall, thus ensuring freedom of access to and from the lift without entering the Williams Hall. This will necessitate adaptations to the kitchen area in the Williams Hall as part of the planned kitchen refurbishment

Vestry Area

Work is currently being taken forward with the architectural team regarding finalising the plans for the redesigned vestry areas in order to maximise the use of available space and suitability for purpose.

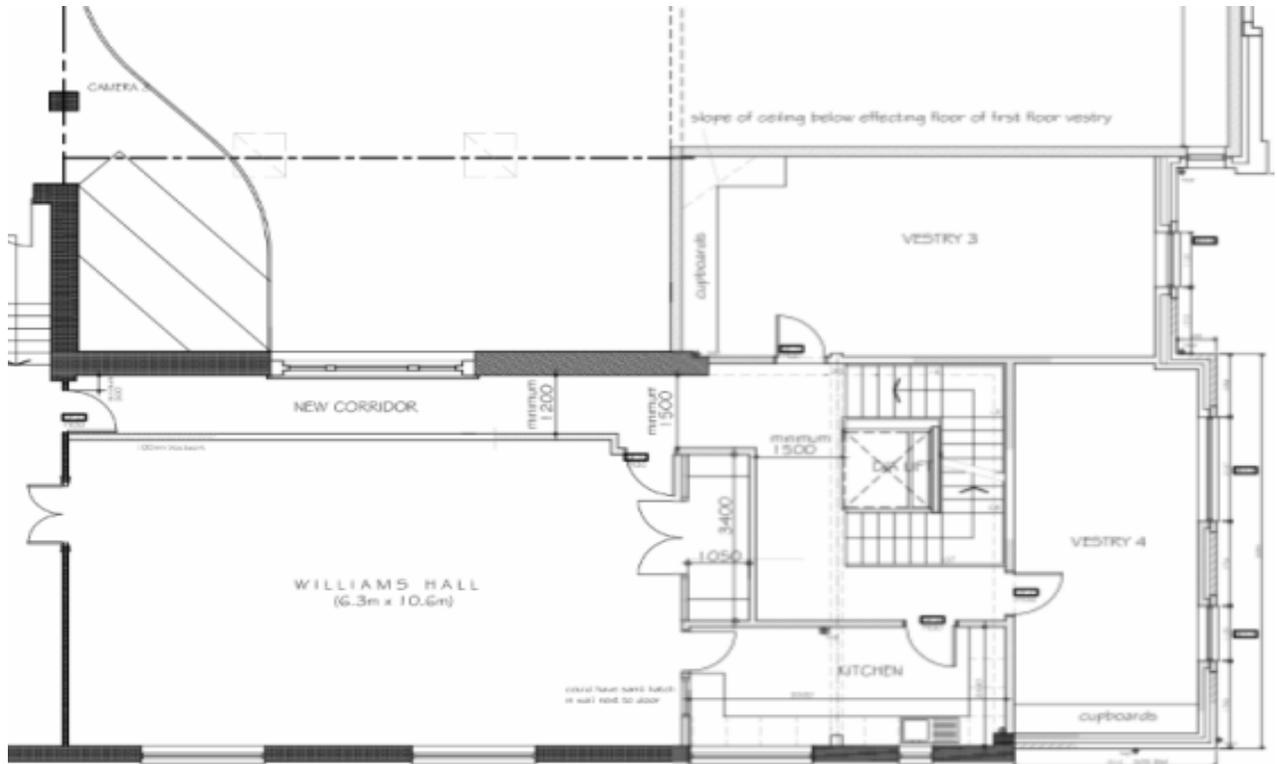
AV Department

The intention is to relocate the control centre of the AV Department into the Tower. To this end the AV Team have been asked to draw up proposals regarding the preferred layout and equipment necessary for relocation. The proposed enhancement to this important facility will do much to assist in the anticipated future collaboration with the BUC in terms of recording and broadcasting

Moving Forward

Work necessary to secure the acquisition of the Church Deeds is advancing and we wait now on the action of the lawyers engaged in dealing with this transaction.

Plans for the Church Development will be put out to tender later this month and the costed responses will be brought to a future Business Meeting.



From the Treasury Department

The financial underpinning of this project is based upon a number of elements. These are:

- Donated funds from the BUC and SEC
- A bank loan secured against the Church deeds
- The monthly Development Offerings and the redemption of personal pledges
- Fund raising activities
- Returns arising from all monies given through Gift Aid (40%) and of those donations given specifically for the Project (100%)

So far this year £200,000 has been added to the Development Fund including £5,500 generated by the recent Flower Festival. To this will be added all our Gift Aid income, which is released to us periodically by the South England Conference. Based on our knowledge of past receipts, this will not be an insignificant amount and lends confidence to our ability to honour all our future loan repayment commitments

To this end members and donors who pay taxes to the Inland Revenue are strongly encouraged to ensure that all their giving is through Gift Aid. This is not restricted to donations for the Development but should include all your payments to the Church for whatever reason

Professional fees amounting to £76,000 have already been paid in order to secure the expert services of quantity surveyors, engineers, planners and architects and to ensure that once the contactors have been appointed, the project can proceed both safely, efficiently and within budget

Did you have your say?

In the last News Sheet Members were invited to ask questions and or offer comments by emailing the Pastor at the following email address: knopkierie.uk@gmail.com Of those received, there were questions concerning Funding, Professional Fees, Affordability and related to this our ability as a Church to meet monthly loan repayment costs, the adequacy of the proposed contingency fund, and how the proposed development best serves to deliver our evangelistic aspirations.

While not all of these issues have been addressed directly in this edition, some have. However, the questions raised are being taken very seriously by the Ministerial Team, Board of Elders and Church Board and Development Committee.

Once again you are invited to express your views and questions in confidence to the Pastor or directly to any member of the Committee.

Other outstanding issues

Thus far attempts to secure payments arising from insurance claims in regard to the crack in the Church Tower and towards the cost of underpinning the Church's foundations arising from the discovery of swallow holes has proved unsuccessful.

While this matter continues to be pursued there remains a question as to the inevitable cost implications should such a claim not be realised. We will keep you up dated on this issue.

Stop Press - Information supplied by the pew manufacturers, from whom we expect responses to our invitation to tender, has confirmed the proposed new arrangement of pews will seat approximately 460 people. By comparison, currently our seating capacity is estimated to be 430 people, a figure broadly in line with our monthly attendance count where this figure has not been exceeded. The new configuration of pews, together with the redesigned balconies will ensure all will have an unrestricted view of the platform. Our thanks must go to the small task group leading on this aspect of the Development