

What we do - and want to do better

Ministry	Position now	Future vision <i>and plan</i>
Sundays: worship	Although everyone is encouraged to contribute, the space, seating arrangements and screen position inhibit this.	A space where everyone can see each other and move freely during worship. <i>The new hall shape has semicircular seating which gives greater eye contact and encourages participation.</i>
Sundays : Youth and Children	The three rooms allocated are often cold and dark and have poor sound insulation. They are uninspiring places to be together.	Groups meet independently in comfortable inspiring rooms. <i>Better sound insulation will enable groups to use areas creatively without disturbing or being disturbed by the main church.</i>
Sundays : Eating and informal time together	Currently setting up for food in the main hall disturbs the church worship – or waits till after. The floor is carpeted and is hard to keep clean.	To have space outside the main hall that we can set up food independently. Flooring is easy to clean. <i>Regularly shared meals become the norm rather than occasional.</i>
‘home groups’	Currently four groups meet in church, two on Sundays – and two during the week. (Use of crowded homes can be difficult for families. A church can feel safer for some than an unknown home.)	A much more accessible place to come for ‘home groups’ in the daytime and the evening. <i>To see more home groups in the new building at times to include those with different shift times. Some will be groups for those finding out about following Jesus.</i>
	The meeting rooms are hard to use alongside use of the main hall.	<i>The sound insulation in the new rooms and hall will give us up to 48 hours a week of space.</i>
Midweek / Saturdays	Occasional use for films (blackout is limited), a women’s fellowship for working women.	A new building that is a more hospitable place to meet. <i>As a result of this we plan to develop this work on a more regular basis.</i>
Youth	There is a Youth group of up to 14 meeting on Sundays – half are boys. Some have been baptised recently – and they enjoy hanging out or playing table tennis together.	Develop at least three highly motivated potential leaders from this group for midweek activities. <i>This will involve discipling and encouragement in individual and small group sessions.</i>
	A Brownies and Guides group meet each week in term in the main church hall, led by a team including a ‘non-serving’ elder.	Develop links with these groups and their families. <i>Hospitality offered to parents coming to meet their children, establishing church links to encourage attendance and draw into faith.</i>
Schools visits	We host and are involved in teaching a series of school visits through the Newham ‘Faith in Schools’ team. This can mean up to 300 primary children visiting before Christmas.	To offer and expand what we provide to our local primary and secondary schools. <i>The greater facilities and quality of spaces will help us to connect better to our local schools.</i>
Nursery	There is a long standing 25 place private nursery on site, responding to the needs of local working parents.	Our phase 2 plans include a dual use building allowing a new 30 space nursery and additional children’s ministry space. <i>We aim to find a provider able to take a co-funding opportunity.</i>

Hosting other fellowships and community use

These are not just 'lettings' but a statement about our openness to the community. A large Slovak Gypsy church came following difficulties with their previous host church.

The Newham Black Women's Project next door uses our meeting room for a support group and has their AGM here. Age Concern - a few doors down have used us when they have funding for activities – and our older members have joined with them. Our traditional Muslim Pakistani neighbours used it for a family party. The more attractive hall will encourage greater use.

Project Costs

Following a delay of eight months for planning permission our quantity surveyor's estimate of costs was £ 2,098,750. We changed the plan to reduce the budget closer to the original target of £ 1.5 million.

This meant leaving the planned nursery building as a Phase 2 project and changing part of the plan, reducing its size by 100m² to 550m². The gallery structure (costing £13,750) has also been omitted, though this would be a church priority to fundraise for and reinstate.

The estimate includes a furniture and fittings budget of £100,000, making the total Phase 1 project cost of £1.9 million.

Project funding

In round figures ..

Currently we have: approx £ 950,000 *remaining from the sale of our Stratford site, 'Brickfields'*

and are committed to £ 50,000 *to be raised from grant making trusts*
 £ 25,000 *to be raised by members and wider church*

We have from : £325,000 *as a Grant*
Thames North URC synod £550,000 *as a Loan to bridge the time from completion to the sale of the satellite hall nearby*

To make up the total of £1,900,000

Summary:

We believe that our investment in the new Church building will make a clear statement to the community and the wider society of our presence and readiness to serve them into the future.

It will open up more opportunity to welcome more worshippers seeking a place to worship and help meet the spiritual needs of the people in preparation for the Kingdom.

In addition, the new building will be more cost effective to run and meet current modern building requirements as a worship place.