

BMC Redevelopment Project



After more than a decade, we're on our way!

On Sunday 10th November Church Council approved proceeding with the redevelopment project. We want to give you a summary of where we are up to and tell you about the 'next steps'.

We were not surprised to find that costs have risen considerably since the estimate in 2021. So, we looked at the work to see what could be delayed without compromising the main upgrade of the sanctuary. We still wanted to achieve the initial remit of the project – to make a 'new' space for worship that is lighter and brighter, more ecologically sound and with better disability access.

The coffee bar extension and new side entrance will be put on hold for the time being (saving about £267,000). Double glazing of the windows in the sanctuary (a significant cost at £129,000), will be delayed (but could be added back into the scope if we raise sufficient funds). These changes reduced the cost from £2.2 million to £1.73 million. The respecified project will deliver:

- > A bright, flexible, accessible space for worship and community use.
- > A new roof
- > Removal of the side galleries.
- > A renovated organ
- > A flat floor
- > A new heating system
- > A new AV & lighting systems

We have already raised 75% of the money from the sale of the other church properties and the £220,000 that was donated as a result of the BMC Mission Possible fund-raising campaign. We have started to apply for grant funding from charities and trusts and we will also apply to the Methodist church at Connexion, District and Circuit level. It is unlikely

that the grants will cover the total costs and the Church Council agreed the balance will need to come from local, BMC-led fund-raising.

At the meeting on 10th November, Church Council unanimously accepted the following proposals:

- Proceed with the redevelopment project
- Accept the reduced scope of the project
- Appoint the chosen contractor (Derwent Valley Construction)
- Authorise the Redevelopment Group to apply for grants
- Commit to restart fundraising within BMC

The building work will begin at some point in the first quarter of 2025. Before that the church will need to be cleared. The project is expected to take a year to complete.

Now the hard work begins for all of us! And we need your help...

- It is wonderful that Glenda and Andy Taylor have once again offered to take the lead on the local fund-raising – BMC Mission Possible 2. They will put a group together to coordinate the activities – if you are willing to help, please speak to one of them.
- Chris Wright is organising the removal of the remaining pews downstairs, and in the side galleries, so that they can be sold. If you have pew-moving or woodworking skills, please contact Chris.
- Steve Ames is heading up the Transition Group that will organise final clearing in the church and the move into the hall for worship. Please contact Steve if you are able to help.

This is the final stage of the coming together of the Methodist Churches in Beeston and it will be the launch pad for the next stage of our witness to the local community.

It will require many different skills and capabilities. We must all think carefully about what we can do to make things run as smoothly as possible. For more information see the December newsletter.

Connie Pullan and Chris Bridges on behalf of the Redevelopment Group. November 2024

If you would like more information, please get in touch with Connie Pullan at connierpullan@gmail.com. or via Karen in the office.