



# Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 2NQ  
Telephone: 01296 426526 | E-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk  
Registered Charity No 1129749 | www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Helen Kirk

## **CONTENTS** of the **Church Welcome Project** brochure

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Purpose | Context | Vision | History | Needs | Design | Aims | Management | Costs | Funding | Timing | Benefits

### **ABOUT US**

Introduction | Mission | Centre | Clients | Contact

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

### **PURPOSE** of the **Church Welcome Project**



*“To provide the rapidly growing Aylesbury town centre with an attractive, accessible, meeting place, able to offer a warm welcome, simple refreshment and a listening ear.”*

### **CONTEXT** of the **Church Welcome Project**

26,800 new homes are planned in the Aylesbury Vale between 2013 and 2033.

- Many cuts in local budgets have meant that the opportunity for social interaction becomes ever more difficult for those in need.
- According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS),
  - The number of hours we spend socially interacting in person has fallen dramatically in the last 25 years.
  - The number of people living in one-person households has increased from 17% in 1971 to 29% or 7.7 million people in 2013.
  - In 2013, the number of people who felt lonely some or most of the time were:
    - 29% of those who live alone
    - 45% of those restricted by health or disability and
    - 63% of those who had been widowed.

## **VISION** of the **Church Welcome Project**

In the context of the needs of today, it is our vision to create a welcoming space that offers:

- A place of belonging for all, but especially those in the community who struggle to belong.
- An extension of our community centre offering hospitality and engagement with our user groups.
- Internet access enabling people to be included in a digital world and offering support, where needed, to access information.
- An opportunity to share simple refreshment, and when feasible, reasonably priced meals, for those who are on their own or struggling financially, emotionally, physically or mentally.
- A welcoming, friendly, supportive, non-judgemental listening ethos.

## **HISTORY** of the **Church Welcome Project**

Concerns about a shabby back door evolved into a £1,000,000 redevelopment of our community centre, reopened in 2009. The motivation was to increase our outreach. We more than doubled this from 41 to over 90 user groups, helped by a part-time volunteer outreach co-ordinator.

Similarly, the need to refurbish the kitchen of our church coffee bar has evolved into this £100,000 scheme to refurbish our church welcome area. We have the same motivation to increase our outreach. We are now ready for a further step change in identifying and meeting new needs within our growing town centre communities. Again, we plan to appoint a part-time volunteer outreach co-ordinator to do this.

The outreach will be greatly helped with a more attractive, welcoming space able to offer a wider range of hot and cold drinks and snacks where people of all ages can meet, eat, relax and feel part of the community.

The existing volunteer-run coffee bar opens six mornings per week, and caters for a small, regular clientele who welcome the friendly company and contact. We want to extend the use of the area and facilities to other special interest groups we identify, especially, but not exclusively, for the lonely and disadvantaged.

## **NEEDS** of the **Church Welcome Project**

The present 1980s coffee bar furnishings and fittings are no longer fit for purpose. The need to revamp it was one of the top three priorities listed by the congregation in a 2015 Healthy Churches Review. This involved over 100 completed questionnaires based on seven criteria common to healthy, growing churches. Results were analysed and discussed in follow-up meetings with the minister. An action group was then set up to make recommendations after visiting other successful church coffee bars. In the process, they identified the following:

- The small kitchen has very few appliances and is in desperate need of a complete refit.
- The interior doors do not allow disabled access to the coffee bar.
- The disabled toilet needs to be brought up to the standard of those in our community centre.
- The external glass front was blown inwards several years ago and the temporary fix needs to be made permanent.
- To prevent draughts, there needs to be an effective heat shield between what will become internal and external automatic doors.
- The existing glass screen between the worship area and vestibule is worn, looks dated and needs replacing.
- The 1980s ceiling and its lighting will be damaged with the door and screen changes. An attractive, modern alternative is needed.
- The flooring will also be damaged with the changed doors and screen and will need replacing.



## **DESIGN** of the **Church Welcome Project**

In this architect's 3D impression please note that:

1. The kitchen has been enlarged and has a new display counter
2. The new glass screen has doors at either end and can be folded right back.
3. The actual lighting in the new ceiling will be decided after receiving tenders
4. Rather than buy new chairs and tables, we will be using the existing ones.

## **AIMS** of the **Church Welcome Project**

1. To refurbish our church entrance and vestibule to match the standards of our community centre.
2. To continue to open our volunteer-run coffee bar six mornings per week.
3. To offer a variety of Fairtrade coffees, teas, cakes and other snacks at reasonable prices.
4. To appoint a volunteer part-time Outreach Co-ordinator to identify local needs, especially of the lonely and disadvantaged.
5. To initiate, partner, enable and encourage activities that meet these needs.
6. To encourage the afternoon and evening use of the space by these special interest groups.
7. To recruit, train and promote the service of Listeners, to help people who need a sympathetic ear.

## **MANAGEMENT** of the **Church Welcome Project**

All our church's previous major projects have been completed on time, within budget and paid for in less time than planned. They include the 1980s church refurbishment, the 1990s church roof replacement and the 2000s community centre refurbishment. The latter was part-funded by a Big Lottery Fund grant and all the planned outcomes were met ahead of time.

We intend that this project be similarly well-managed by means of:

- an experienced action group with architectural, technical, financial and project-management skills;
- a rigorous review of component costs;
- a single contact person to liaise with the architect and building contractor;
- a checks-and-balances reporting arrangement with the Church Council (Trustees) and local decision-making body and their delegated executive, the Leadership Team;
- regular communications with the wider church family;
- following all policies and procedures as set out in Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church which can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk).

## COSTS of the Church Welcome Project

Major Items	Cost (£)	Building Costs <sup>1</sup>	Cost (£)
Building Costs <sup>1</sup>	31,925	Preliminaries	5,945
Glass Screen	11,500	Demolitions & Alterations	2,714
Inner Automatic Doors	5,000	Linings & Partitions	5,105
Crèche Doors	2,500	Surface Finishes	7,927
Kitchen Furniture <sup>2</sup>	6,202	Fabric Sundries	1,089
Kitchen Appliances <sup>2</sup>	5,615	Plumbing & Heating	3,493
Kitchen Installation	2,126	Electric Fittings	5,652
Architect Fees – Design <sup>3</sup>	4,500		
Architect Fees – Specification <sup>3</sup> + CDM <sup>4</sup>	2,500	<b>Building Costs Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>£31,925</b>
3D Drawings	333	<b>Kitchen Furniture<sup>2</sup></b>	
Building Regulations	240	• Work Table 1	766
Kitchen Flooring <sup>5</sup>	621	• Work Table 2	786
Reception Area Flooring <sup>5</sup>	4,000	• Sink	282
Disabled WC Upgrade	1,000	• Tap set	38
		• Wall Cupboard	492
Total	78,062	• 2 x Base Cupboards	2,202
VAT @ 20%	15,612	• Fly Killer	77
Total at September 2017	93,674	• Display Refrigerator	1,559
10% Contingency	9,367		
		<b>Kitchen Furniture Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>£6,202</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>£103,041</b>	<b>Kitchen Equipment<sup>2</sup></b>	
		• Dishwasher	3,345
<b>Notes</b>		• Under-counter Fridge	463
<b>1. Building cost</b> estimates, including electrical and plumbing work were provided by a local building contractor.		• Microwave Oven	353
<b>2. Kitchen refurbishment cost</b> estimates were provided by a leading commercial kitchen supplier.		• Coffee Machine <sup>6</sup>	1,312
<b>3. Our architects</b> , HFP Architects of Wendover, were chosen after an interview and selection process.		• 4 Slice Toaster	142
<b>4. CDM</b> = Construction Design & Management		<b>Kitchen Equipment Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>£5,615</b>
<b>5. Flooring cost estimates</b> were provided by a local flooring provider.			
		<b>Notes – continued</b>	
		<b>6. The Coffee Machine</b> is a simple push button model incorporating a hot water boiler.	
		<b>7. More precise figures</b> on all the above will only be available when we seek tenders from contractors.	

## **FUNDING** of the **Church Welcome Project**

### **Funding Strategy**

Our aim is to raise one third of the total cost from our own church members, one third from other Methodist sources and one third from other grant-awarding bodies.

### **Our Own Fund-Raising**

The plan, as in our past schemes, is to obtain pledges of interest-free loans from our church members. This will be paid back from direct giving and fund-raising over a five-year period. In practice, in all previous projects, we have a track record of repaying such loans well before the agreed time. However, the pledges will enable us to begin work as soon as the other sources of funding are secured.

So suggested options that will be put to our church members are donating a cash sum from savings, making a regular contribution from income, offering an interest-free loan, donating a memorial for a loved one or making a bequest in a will.

### **Other Methodist Funding**

We will be seeking financial support from our Circuit, District and Connexional funds. With the project primarily aimed at helping us to further increase our outreach to local communities, we believe that it will meet the key funding criteria of these various funds. The Circuit have already approved a £20,000 grant.

### **Other Grant-Awarding Bodies**

As with our successful community centre project, we will conduct a search of, and make applications to, grant-awarding bodies, where we seem to meet their criteria.

Our targets are therefore:

Congregational giving and fund-raising	£35,000
Other Methodist Funding from Circuit, District & Connexion	£34,000
Other External Grant Sources	£34,000
Total Funding	£103,000

## **TIMING** of the **Church Welcome Project**

From Church Council approval in October 2017, we aim to have funding commitments in place to start the building work in summer 2018. The building work is estimated to take about three months. During that time, worship services will be held in the church hall. The coffee bar will be able to cater for its existing clientele in the community centre entrance lobby.

## **BENEFITS** of the **Church Welcome Project**

- Improved access and facilities for the disabled and parents of young children:
  - Wheelchair-friendly automatic inner as well as outer doors
  - Upgraded disabled toilet and baby-changing facilities
- Enlarged kitchen able to offer a wider range of refreshments
- A flexible, attractive, meeting space for use by community special interest groups:
  - A convenient walk-in off the street venue, more visible than the community centre rooms
  - An ability to accommodate large events as an overflow
  - The potential to use the church more creatively for, for instance, art exhibitions and school choirs
- Free Wi-Fi and internet connection enabling help for those not able to access the online world
- More suitable doors for the crèche playroom
- Energy-efficient comfort:
  - Heat screen between the automatic doors preventing draughts and retaining heat
  - Energy saving glass screen enabling us to heat only the welcome area when the church is not in use
- **In summary**, the project offers:
  - improved access;
  - a more versatile kitchen;
  - a flexible, attractive, meeting space;
  - a comfortable, energy-efficient venue;
  - availability for both church and community use.

## **ABOUT US**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are an active, inclusive town centre church; the largest in the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit and the Northampton District. Our recently refurbished community centre has nine meeting venues used by over 90 church, charity and community groups. They cater for the young, the old, the able and the needy. We have a long tradition of serving God by serving others both locally and in the wider world.

### **MISSION**

To spread the love of Jesus Christ in a sensitive, supportive and methodical way. We achieve this by identifying and making best use of all our resources. These include our premises, our money and the time, talents and spiritual experiences of our members. Locally, nationally and internationally, we actively seek ways of serving God through serving others.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

Since re-opening in 2009 after our £1million refurbishment we now have a suite of 9 attractive and affordable town centre meeting rooms aimed mainly at charities and community groups. We can accommodate from 3 to 300. Over 90 different groups have used the premises on a regular or occasional basis. Activities in the community centre cater for the needs of children, families, the mature and elderly, the disadvantaged and those of any age seeking recreational pursuits.

## CLIENTS

As well as our own church-run groups, other regular clients include:

Aylesbury Child Contact Centre	Provides a safe place for children to meet with parents with whom they no longer live after relationship breakdown.
Aylesbury Deaf Coffee Morning Club	This is for deaf people to meet up for relaxation and chats. People can learn sign language and about deaf awareness.
Aylesbury Talking Newspapers	Provides a comprehensive local news service to blind and partially-sighted people by producing weekly audio cassettes of stories from the local newspaper.
Bucks County Council	Adoption and parenting meetings.
Cards for Good Causes	Charity Christmas card shop raising funds for 36 UK charities.
Concerts	The church can seat 300 for services, music and other concerts and events, such as the Aylesbury Festival Choir, the Annual Organ Concert and the organ-accompanied Silent Film evenings.
J's Joyful Divas	Weekly rehearsals for small local ladies' choir.
Lymphoma Association	Supporting people affected by lymphatic cancer, with meetings and training.
Macular Society	Local support group for people affected by macular conditions.
NHS Blood & Transplant	Blood donor sessions for the general public.
Sees The Day	A day centre for people with learning difficulties, helping them to integrate into the community, be more independent and maybe have some work experience.
Strength & Stability	Classes to help especially senior citizens to get fit and avoid falls — 2 to 3 different classes.
Talkback/Nclude	Another group for people with learning difficulties.

## CONTACT

**To highlight community needs**, discuss potential new groups or to volunteer help:

Rev. Helen Kirk, Telephone: 01296 488963 | Email: [revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com)

**For donations or grants:**

Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary

Telephone: 01296 415312 | Email: [kirk\\_roger@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kirk_roger@yahoo.co.uk)

**For other or written enquiries:**

Aylesbury Methodist Church Office, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ

Tel. 01296 426526 | Email: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)