



THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
**St PETER & St PAUL**  
BASSINGBOURN

*Lives transformed through knowing Jesus*

## **Re-imagining our building to help us deliver our Vision**

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***Our worship...*** expresses our whole-hearted response to God's extravagant love. We are committed to offering worship in a variety of styles, seeking to be open to the Holy Spirit and desiring to be transformed as we encounter God.

***Our discipleship...*** deepens our faith, increases our knowledge and transforms us to be the people Jesus calls us to be as we follow him. We prioritise clear biblical teaching for every stage of faith and provide support and encouragement outside of church services within small informal groups.

***Our mission...*** is to share the love of God in Jesus which we experience ourselves. We do this by prayer and practical support of God's mission within and beyond the Parish. We are committed to seeing lives transformed through building relationships, encouraging spiritual awareness and being Christ's ambassadors.

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Our beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> century church is a testament to the vision of our dedicated and inspired forebears but, although we have kept it structurally sound, its interior is unfit for use in the context of our vision: ***Lives transformed through knowing Jesus*** as expressed in our worship, discipleship and mission.



Specifically, the present seating (fixed pews) constrains our freedom in worship and the lack of partitioned off space (the nave is essentially one big room) makes it difficult for those with small children, and we have no separate spaces in which to teach during times of worship – or at other times. The layout is divisive and non-inclusive towards those with access issues, even though we are blessed with level access from the street right through to the chancel. Water is provided from a standpipe in the churchyard and we have no toilets or kitchen facilities.

In spite of it all, we manage to continue to preach the Gospel week by week, to welcome those who come for weddings and funerals and the many people who attend other events such as the village market.

### So what's the plan?

We shall remove the pews in the middle of the nave and level the floor, installing underfloor heating below a new stone floor. The older pews from the side will be renovated and the best of them repositioned along the outside walls.

We shall have a new vestry and three lavatories (one with full disability access and baby changing facilities) in the north-west corner of the nave.



We shall have a large room that can be partitioned off from the nave under a gallery, which will lead to 3 new rooms for teaching and meeting at the upper level.

We shall have a beautiful crèche area in the south aisle, light and airy but separated from the nave by sound-attenuating glass walls where, during times of worship, parents and other carers will be able to retreat with their children if they wish to, without being cut off from the worship.

We shall have a modern kitchen, flower arranging facilities and storage.

## How will the facilities be used?

Our Vision Statement sets out our passion to see '*Lives transformed through knowing Jesus*' and it is this Vision that motivates our desire to make changes to our building.

The opening up of the interior of the church will not only provide a warm and flexible space for worship but will also enable us to host evangelistic events such as children's holiday clubs and Messy Church as well as arts festivals and other community events.

The scheme provides for toilets, kitchen, prayer room, vestry, crèche and rooms for use as children's teaching rooms on Sundays. The teaching rooms will be available for other uses during the week by the church and other suitable community use.

It will be possible to enclose an area at the West End to provide a space capable of accommodating 40-60 people. This will be used, amongst other things, for Alpha and discipleship groups as well as being available for post-funeral and other gatherings.



The proposed balcony will enable us to accommodate seating for over 300 people in total (currently problematic), numbers which are not infrequently seen at large funerals and at Christmas.

With these new facilities we will be able to welcome community groups such as Guides, Scouts and Brownies, schoolchildren needing space and refreshment as they do homework, those caring for little children in the early years, the lonely and isolated and many many more who long to know Jesus but whom we have not yet reached.

## What is my role in this?

We have already been greatly blessed by the generosity of members of the congregation - an astonishing £80,000 was raised during our recent Gift Day. We are currently applying for a number of grants from charities and organisations that specialise in supporting the care of buildings and the growth of the Christian faith to help us raise the £800,000 we will need. But we are also relying on the generosity of people like you to help us reach our goal. Supporting this project will enable our vision to be fulfilled in worship, discipleship and outreach to the community so that we can see lives being transformed by the love of Jesus.

## How can I find out more?

If you would like to learn more about the church, our Vision and our plans then please visit our website at [www.bassingbournchurch.org.uk](http://www.bassingbournchurch.org.uk) where you will find lots of information.

## How can I make a financial contribution?

If you would like to make a financial gift towards our plans to improve the facilities of the church building:

- You can make a one-off gift
- You can make a pledge to give a single gift in the future
- You can set up a standing order for a limited period of a year or two

Details of how to give are set out in the separate Giving Form which is enclosed with this leaflet. To obtain additional forms please email us at [office@bassingbournchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@bassingbournchurch.org.uk)

***Heavenly Father, may we respond gladly and with open hearts to Jesus who said: Freely you have received, freely give (Matthew 10.8)***