



## CHURCH COUNCIL DECISIONS

This last year has been an incredibly hectic time for B4G as we worked hard to put together various options for the development of our church. This has been a time of consultation involving people from within our Church and also from the wider community, enabling everyone to be involved in the decision-making. B4G would like to thank everyone for their support throughout this consultation process.

Following the publication of an information leaflet outlining the 3 Options, drop-in sessions were held to enable people to come and talk to the B4G team about the options and also to provide feedback to help Church Council take the ultimate decision of how the Church premises should be developed.

At the Extraordinary Church Council meeting on 31 March 2014, Church Council voted in favour of pursuing Option 2 – as commended by the B4G team – by a large majority.

Option 2 is a scheme that would be approved by the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and includes building a new side entrance with internal lift, making more flexible rooms downstairs and partially altering the Chapel to address all the known problems, such as heating and the sound system.

B4G are delighted by Church Council's decision.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete feedback forms and let us know your opinions.



Proposed new entrance

Following a recent meeting with **One17**, a time scale has now been agreed for submitting planning applications for a single dwelling based on a five bedroom house, designed in keeping with the listed building, our Church, aiming to maximize value and “kerb appeal”, meeting the expectations of the planning authority to gain approval with the minimum of fuss. A planning application to Leeds City Planning Department will be submitted in tandem with the housing application. The final approval of the Connexion will also be sought with the planning applications. The church scheme will include the removal of the earth embankment at the rear of the church leading on to the Peace Garden.

The fee structure has also been agreed up to planning level.

The architect, Stuart Beaumont, has also agreed to work with an arboriculturist to ensure that surrounding trees are included in the planning process. He will also liaise on our behalf with Highways and National Grid on relevant matters.

This process will take place in 3 stages –

- Planning approval
- Going out to tender
- Completion of the project

We hope to know the outcome of the planning approval by the end of the year with a view to seeking tenders as soon as possible thereafter. Completion of the project is targeted for the end of 2015.

Planning applications will be submitted in August so that we shall be in a position to put forward our detailed plans for our grant applications to the Circuit meeting in September and to the District Autumn meeting.

We shall also be preparing applications for external grants from outside Methodism. The Business Plan will be updated to support these applications.

As discussed at the Extraordinary CC meeting, there is a need to ensure that we have adequate storage space for all the activities that take place in our Church. A formal audit of storage facilities will be carried out to inform us of what storage space is required to meet everyone's needs.

As you are aware, there have been ongoing problems with the sound system in Church so you will be pleased to learn that a new sound system is due to be installed during May. This will also include a Loop System which meets current legislation.

**Dear Lord,**

Grant us discernment that we may recognise your direction;

Grant us courage that we may step out and follow;

Grant us deep trust in you, loving God, the one who holds and promises never to abandon us

Guide us with the light of your presence.

Amen

Since B4G was formed over two years ago, more than £18 000 has been raised through fundraising and generous donations from many people both within our Church and in the community. For that we are truly grateful. It always seemed as if we had a great mountain to climb but your generous gifts have helped us achieve so much. Please help us to continue with this momentous project.

Now, it is time to set about raising funds locally to meet the costs for Option 2. Though it may seem a daunting task, we know we can do it. Every gift, no matter how big or how small helps us to get nearer our goal.

Later on, B4G will be seeking your help in more specific ways. Perhaps you are already thinking of what you could do to help.

### *Dates for your Diary 2014*

**War Horse** – Saturday 17 May - at Boston Spa Village Hall

**Summer Solstice Walk** – Saturday 21 June

**BBQ and Blues** – Saturday 19 July – at Clifford Village Hall

**"Raise the Roof" Singalong** - Saturday 20 September

**Festival of Light Celebrations** – November

**Christmas Tree Festival** - December

More details of all these events will be announced soon, but in the meantime, **please save the dates.**

