

Funding Guide 4

Bringing your Project to Life



After speaking with church members, the Building Sub Committee will probably have discovered that lots of suggestions, ideas and comments have been made regarding the proposed project. There may be several ideas that have been more popular, and your project may have grown to encompass several other funding areas which require attention.

Now is a good opportunity to evaluate all the information, and work out what is most feasible and if there are any potential problems with the suggested plans. This is a good time because it is before you develop fixed proposals and engage with any professional advisors.

Alterations and Extensions

How do you want to physically establish the new space? You might be looking to divide different parts of the building to provide new or improved facilities. Aspects such as sound proofing and permanent uses for space must be considered at an early stage. For example, will different groups require the same space or can spaces be easily adapted for alternative uses. Do you want to create separate spaces for children, or will you ensure there is always a quiet space available?

It may be appropriate to consider a separate solution (an outbuilding or church hall) or even an external solution by extending the church. If the only option is to add an extension, it should be modest in size and subservient to

the church. You may need to consider whether an extension would destroy any historic fabric, and be aware of the thoughts and feelings of the congregation and community to the proposed developments.

Reordering of the Church

If your project is looking to introduce physical changes to the building, it is important to consult with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the congregation and the community. It is crucial to have a strong awareness of what the proposed changes are, and who they will be made for, both in the short and long term.

Making specific changes to your church building may include:

- Alterations and Extensions
- Accessibility
- Liturgical uses of the building
- Noticeboards
- Glass Screens
- Seating
- Choosing a new heating system
- Lighting
- Audio Visual Equipment

You will need to be aware of the state of your building before any work progresses so do check your latest Quinquennial Report. Any major repairs should be undertaken prior to embarking on new works.

Removal of the Pews

Some churches choose to remove the pews to better facilitate modern styles of worship and community activities. Flexible seating can also provide improved access, fellowship and circulation for refreshments at the end of a service.

The PCC should consider the following:

- How old are the pews? A detailed survey of the pews may be required.

- How significant are they as examples of workmanship over the centuries?
- What is their condition?
- Does their inclusion in the building form part of the whole design of the church or are they a mixture of styles, ages and designs?
- Were they imported from elsewhere or are they original pews for your building?
- What will be the aesthetic impact of removing some pews and will it be detrimental?
- Are there too many pews for the church building?

Depending on the age of the building and the furniture, you may need to consult with one of the amenity societies e.g. The Georgian Group, The Victorian Church Buildings Councils as well as the DAC Secretary, who will be able to advise you further. If the PCC is removing pews to replace them with chairs, it is useful to consider a number of other factors

- The Appearance of the Chairs
- Proposed Storage of the Chairs
- Practicalities of the Chairs
- Floor Levels

There is a very helpful section on seating on the Churchcare website
<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Seating.pdf>