



**TOWARDS**

**MAKING**

**COMMITMENTS**

**FOR**

**OUR**

**FUTURE**

Looking towards a Church Meeting on Sunday 14th December 2014  
this seeks to assist understanding of the myriad of issues and some  
elements of the ongoing discussions that have been taking place in  
different places.

It is hoped this may be helpful on its own, but also along with opportunity to ask  
questions and share concerns and ideas.

## TOWARDS MAKING COMMITMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

This document seeks to draw some threads together from our discussions so far - from our deliberations about who we are 'Called to Love' to the more recent documents 'Mission Not Impossible' and 'A Way Forward' as we look towards making commitments for the future. There are elements of reminding ourselves of realities that will shape or limit aspects of our life. There is also a 'filling in of detail'. Suggestions that have been made by others are included along with some reflection. All three documents put a **priority on our mission** - both our serving of the community and our sharing of Christ and Christian faith.

'**Called to Love**' helped us to identify where God's calling for us is. We produced some lengthy lists of people and ways in which this love might be expressed. Along with personal responses and our church support for charities and tenants of our premises, we singled out the isolated and the lonely for particular attention. The hope of maintaining a presence in each of the communities we serve has led to conversations with school, after-school club, nursery, mums & tots groups, uniformed organisations. Some attention to the young is a natural conclusion. **This process therefore invites commitment to:**

### **The lonely and the isolated**

- To look to developing 'Meeting Place' in each community, seeking appropriate groups who may be invited to use this resource as well as making our own initiatives.
- To support the development of the Generations Project in all our three communities, encouraging the participation of other churches.
- To explore other initiatives, such as home visiting and practical support schemes, along with other churches and organisations

### **The younger generations**

- To explore with organisations who use our premises ways of working with Life-Themes within their regular programs, with church participation.
- To involve them in 'celebration events'.

'**Mission Not Impossible**' outlines ways in which faith and life can be explored both within the church and with people from the community, bridging the gap through focusing on Life-Themes. **It invites commitment to:**

### **Themes**

- to adopt the use of 'life themes' for our exploration of Christian faith and witness.
- to actively create opportunities to explore these 'life themes' with the wider community.
- to explore creative ways to present a Christian perspective in this setting.

### **Meeting Place**

- to explore the development of such a space in every aspect.
- to shape our outreach to the lonely, isolated, those suffering dementia and carers.
- to identify means of supporting organisations who share our mission.

### **Support Worker**

- to explore the possible employment of a 'Mission Enabler' or Church Related Community Worker to help us steer this strategy into action

'**A Way Forward**' offers a possible way in which we might maintain a presence, to fulfil our calling, in all three communities, in partnership with community groups and other churches. It bears in mind that we do not have personnel to manage all three premises and that, with a focus on mission, we do not wish to be distracted by the practicalities and financing of property. **Commitment is invited towards:**

- involving the community and tenant groups to share in the management and running of premises. This relates particularly to Olton, where the community is strong.
- following the Christ Church model and employing a Warden to manage all aspects of our premises and their letting. This might include Olton as our contribution to 'community management'.
- maximising the use of each premises to engage with the community both in terms of serving their needs and creating opportunity to encourage encounter with Christ and Christian faith.
- seeking opportunities to lead people to worship in appropriate ways
- a regular venue for Sunday worship in Christ Church, understanding that this will be only part of our worship life, with a variety of opportunities in other places and at other times.

## WHAT SORT OF CHURCH? - first choices to be made.

- A community of Christian people keen to explore Christian faith and how it reflects in everyday life, doing this in a variety of ways with the community around so that each are led to worship.  
OR A traditional Christian congregation where Sunday worship is the focus for Christian life - recognising that this is not effective for mission in our current society and will not likely lead to growth.
- A congregation centred in one particular community OR one able to maintain a broader URC presence in Solihull with focus in three communities.

## PEOPLE

### Membership and age-profile

There are in excess of 100 on the combined membership roll. However, these include a number of non-attenders (house-bound, in care, moved away, don't attend). There are in the region of 70 active members/adherents, but this number includes a sizeable proportion of elderly with under twenty being younger than 60yrs.

### Partnerships are necessary

We are already very dependent, financially, on those outside the church. We are now in the position where we need to seriously consider wider church and community partnerships in order to maintain some of our activities. Such partnerships, as well as keeping premises going, will offer avenues for sharing something of our faith.

We can look to the community for support with things such as property management and maintenance, but for mission it is our relationship with other churches and the **possibilities for additional ministry** (mission enabler/community worker) that should be considered.

### Ministry

There is a strong possibility that, if invited, Mark could remain in ministry here after September 2015 (and up to February 2019) offering some continuity in this process of change.

## FINANCE

Combined accounts show:

Personal giving & Gift Aid	£ 39400
Rental & fundraising	£100100
MaM and other ministry costs including Manse	£ 70400
Property costs	£ 46000
Warden	£ 14000
Reserves	£403600

### Note:

*While these are not complete and only general figures they serve to suggest two things at least:*

*We need to undertake a stewardship campaign to raise the percentage of personal giving towards the costs of ministry.*

*We are not a poor church, but care needs to be taken that we do not commit ourselves to more than we can manage, even with support.*

## A WAY FORWARD - Additional thoughts and possibilities for each of our three sites

### HOBS MOAT

#### MISSION & WORSHIP

Expansion of the Neighbourhood Coffee Morning and/or the Lunch Club to other days and with invitation to include more folk from outside the church fellowship.

This will need some additional input - wider SURC and the community itself.

Praying for the Community - regular event inviting 'matters for prayer' from community and organisations.

Also, use of space for exploration of Life-Themes in appropriate ways.

Solihull Presbyterian Church are considering if a move to a particular neighbourhood is right, in which case Sunday worship may take place. They are also interested in using space for Bible study evening etc. Their constitution would not allow any shared activity, however.

*Notes:*

*With a focus on reaching out to the elderly there are clear links with the Generations Project and the 'spiritually focussed' activities that are being developed. Use of these could be made here.*

*A conversation with Solihull Sustain (supporting the voluntary and community sector in the borough) highlighted the need for service like a 'Meeting Place' in the Hobs Moat area.*

## PROPERTY

Improvements to the toilet facilities with access from hall and church-space.

Possible extension of the main church-space - perhaps a 'garden room' as comfortable 'Meeting Place'.

Bookings management, caretaking etc. to be considered along with other sites.

## OLTON

### MISSION & WORSHIP

Relationship with Uniformed Organisations - exploration with leaders re input on Life-Themes perhaps leading to worship events with church.

Relationship with Kineton Green School - conversation has been had and can be pursued regarding regular use of a more flexible church space by the school for a variety of purposes.

This includes a Parents' Coffee Morning that could lead to developing a 'Meeting Place'.

Orchids Childcare provides before and after school clubs and 'wrap around' care (additional needs and/or disabilities)

Relationship with Churches - Olton Churches Together are interested in linking into the Generations Project. Worship is already offered in care homes. The idea of community chaplaincy could be expanded to volunteer visitors and care teams.

Praying for the Community - regular event inviting 'matters for prayer' from community and organisations. Suggestion of a periodic 'Celebrating God in Olton' worship event.

### PROPERTY

'A Way Forward' seeks to maintain SURC ownership and use of the premises. This to be enabled through the creation of a Management Group including representation from the larger tenant groups (Scouts, Orchids Childcare, Dance group etc.) in addition to SURC. This group would have responsibility for the running and maintenance of the premises.

It is envisaged that letting income would serve to maintain the fabric, at least until a large expense came along. For such expenditure it would be for the Management Group to raise the finance.

*Note: Current figures indicate a profit of over £4k (lettings against all property costs)*

Constitution/powers for the Management Group would need to be drawn up carefully and with legal advice. Folk willing to be 'hands on' would need to be recruited. Letting and raised income would be a restricted fund within SURC accounts.

Bookings management, caretaking etc. could be considered along with other sites.

Ultimate ownership and responsibility for the premises remain with the Synod and SURC Elders and if at some point the arrangement becomes unsustainable SURC would need to decide the future.

Consideration needs to be given to making the church-space more flexible.

Some plans have already been drawn up with this in mind (including kitchen and toilet facilities in the church-space).

Early considerations regarding property were around selling one set of premises in order to provide finance for refurbishments in the others. Costings relating to major refurbishment at Olton are in the region of £800k +. The 'per-member' cost raises some doubts about whether we would be allowed to do this, regardless of any moral question we may feel confronted with.

In any case, with consideration of keeping all three premises, this is a longer-term option.

*Notes:*

*Olton Baptist Church are not interested in taking on the premises as their own, both because they do not reflect their nature of church and because of the cost liabilities. They are interested in being part of the community management group, but not as 'lead'. They recognise the significance of the site.*

*Kineton Green School are very keen both to see the continuation of Orchids Childcare who provide the before and after school care and to explore the possibilities of greater use of flexible space in the church premises.*

*Orchids Childcare are keen to participate as this part of their business would fold if they had to transport children elsewhere.*

*Such a project could re-vitalise community in Olton, with such as the Resident's Association supporting people rather than conserving architecture.*

*St Margaret's Community Trust in Ward End ([www.stmargaretscommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretscommunitytrust.co.uk)) has been brought to our attention by a member of the community, where a grade 2 listed church is being adapted for use by the multi-cultural community. It is an interesting example of what is possible, but is distinct from our situation in Olton as it is a socially deprived area and it is Church of England, with access to Church Urban Fund grants etc.*

## **CHRIST CHURCH**

### **MISSION & WORSHIP**

Development of the 'Meeting Place' within the John Palmer Hall, forming a hub for engagement with the community. Providing a welcoming and relaxed space for use as both an informal 'coffee lounge' and 'activity space' for particular groups.

*(The 'Happy Heart Cafe' in Richmond Road and the Kairos Cafe at Shirley Baptist Church have been suggested as possible models.)*

Focus on the isolated and lonely - offering welcome and company generally - serving particular groups (e.g. Dementia Cafe offering support for sufferers and carers with activities). *There are groups that members already related to who could be invited.*

Exploration of Life-Themes through the arts (drama, visual art, music), making use of church-space and other rooms. Inviting participation by tenant groups and through the Meeting Place etc.

Suggestion that the main kitchen with volunteer bakers could provide for 'Meeting Place' needs in all three of our premises.

The flat currently occupied by the Warden @ Christ Church could be an asset in employing either a Mission Enabler or a Property Manager for all three premises.

### **PROPERTY**

Provision of disability access between church and gallery levels and between Nattery and JPH.

Development of the Meeting Place - removal of the stage, creation of servery from JPH kitchen and extra storage. Design and furnishing of welcoming space with activity area and display.

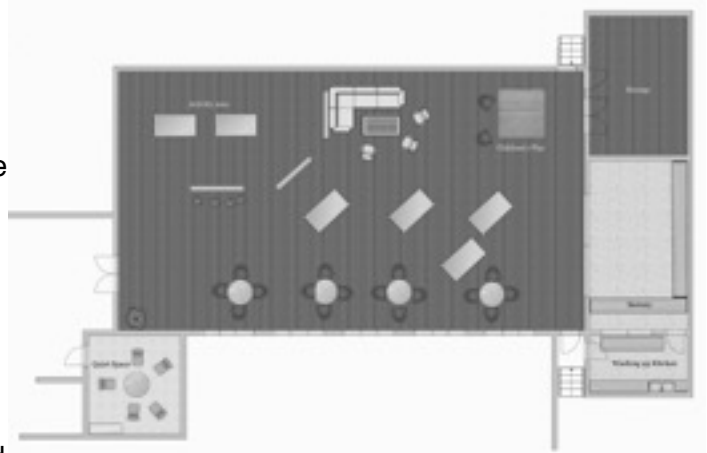
The entrance onto Union Road to have a 'makeover' so people know what is through the doors.

Possible creation of 'Quiet Space' in the small meeting room off the foyer.

It is envisaged that the church-space would become much more multi-functional and some adaptations may follow as necessary (better lighting, more flexible seating, heating etc).

#### *Notes:*

*There are numerous examples of churches adapted in this way. The Church at Carrs Lane and St Paul's Crossover Centre Bordesley in their function and use as meeting/conference venues, and St Barnabas Erdington with the inclusion of a cafe.*



*The future of Jubilee Church as tenants of Christ Church is uncertain. Their long-term hopes are to have premises they can use in their entirety, with worship on a Sunday morning, neither of which fit in with our planned use of the building.*

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

The clear hope is that while we need a settled home for Sunday worship, our mission activities will lead people to worship in ways that are appropriate for them that will take place in all three of our premises at different times, as well as elsewhere.

For instance any worship events springing from working with uniformed organisations will happen in Olton and probably not be on a Sunday. Our monthly Fellowship Prayers and Praying with the Papers will continue on their dates in rotation. Cell Groups include worship of a more intimate nature in their meetings. It is likely that worship events arising from exploring Life-Themes will take a variety of forms.

For our Sunday worship it would be good to have space that allows for a range of activities. It would be good to have somewhere accessible, attractive and comfortable to welcome folk to from other events. This is about what we offer to God and therefore we should seek quality.

So Sunday worship will not be the 'be all and end all' of our church life, but rather a focal point for committed members to come together. We will continue to follow themes from the Christian year as well as do some of our own looking at Life-Themes. We will celebrate our faith and seek God's word for our lives. It is likely that our pattern of worship will tend towards the traditional but we will, no doubt, have some variety. Visuals, music, drama, discussion as well as silence and our traditions of gathering at the Lord's table will all have a part.

## **MAKING OUR COMMITMENTS**

We are looking towards 14th December, but also recognise that this meeting might not feel able to take firm steps and further prayer and discussion are needed.

The Elders will be considering the actual 'mechanism' whereby we respond to the invitations to commitments outlined earlier in this paper.

Following general URC custom, it will be only those who are present who will be able to respond. It is regarded that the discussion at a Church Meeting is a key element to discerning the 'mind of Christ'. On this principle it is hoped that all those who will come to share in making commitments together will do their best to explore the myriad of issues we have covered over recent months.

## **PRAYER**

Lord God, through your grace you have given us life. In your love you have shown us your way in Jesus Christ. In the realities of human life you send your Holy Spirit to guide and confirm us in your way. As we seek to make commitments to you within the life and mission of your church we ask that our overwhelming desire may be to share your life, love and way with others, that together with them we are led to worship you the creator, sustainer and saviour of all.

We ask our prayer for your name's sake.

## **PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following contributions are printed in their entirety. There are some ideas which have been taken into wider thinking. Some wrong assumptions mean that certain ideas are not possible and cannot be included in our thinking.

### **DAVID ARGALL REFLECTIONS/IDEAS**

Like many others I have been giving more and more consideration to Church buildings and I believe the time is rapidly approaching when a decision should be made.

The time scale for putting plans in place, receiving outline acceptance, obtaining quotes, selling and/or refurbishing would be somewhere in the region of 12 - 18 months.

I feel that with the current spread of membership it would be nigh on impossible to get a unanimous decision to which building we should retain if left to a straight vote, it would be natural for each member to opt for their "spiritual" home, ie the Church they currently attend, and would therefor be biased.

I believe it is necessary to put forward a specific proposal, as to a specific building and the "why's".

I do not need to repeat the breakdown of the problems and costs involved in just the maintenance requirements as this has been adequately reported by the Surveyor. I do not have to repeat the valuations or problems surrounding the Sale of the various sites as again this has been well provided for by Shepherd Commercial.

In a recent straw pole I conducted I decided to approach the matter from the other direction and I quote the question I asked....

"It is easy to find reasons why we would select a Church Building, principally because we are biased towards our own, naturally, as this is the one we "chose" to be our spiritual home. I want to explore things from the other direction, the reasons for NOT choosing a Church Building, including our own, in an unbiased way. Please put your thoughts down under the relevant heading". Olton Christ Church Hobs Moat.

The answers were anonymous and almost unanimous and fell almost exactly in line with my own conclusion and those of the professionals, which were....

### **OLTON**

This is the oldest of all three Churches, yet architecturally and visually the most interesting.

Present car park too small. Facilities need updating. Access to toilets from Church too far and inconvenient. To modernise for the future would be costly but if undertaken would be good for at least the next 50/60 years.

### **CHRIST CHURCH**

The largest of the three. Too many steps on too many different levels. Not enough parking spaces.

Not in a good position. The most expensive to upkeep.

### **HOBBS MOAT**

The smallest of the three and least attractive. The minor hall is past it's sell by date. Public transport difficult. Is a hall that is used as a Church and lacks atmosphere.

We know that Christ Church is the most lucrative site, it could be possible to negotiate the sale of Hobs Moat to someone like McCarthy and Stone who may incorporate a Chapel into their sheltered accommodation. Olton would be the most difficult to sell because it is within a protected conservation area. If we were to consider a new build the funds might not be available and we would need to sell all three properties to even consider the option, we could of course waste a lot of time and money if one or more did not sell.

I therefore propose that Olton be retained, Christ Church sold for the best market price and negotiations take place regarding Hobs Moat as per the aforementioned suggestion.

### **POSSIBLE PLANS FOR OLTON**

- 1 To have the roof removed, insulated and retiled with existing tiles and new ones.
- 2 To have all outside walls, gutters, down pipes and drains made good.
- 3 To remove front porch make good entry with steps and invalid facilities.
- 4 To have new wooden front doors and incorporate glass doors inside to provide a lobby area and to obscure draughts when front doors are open.
- 5 To widen access into front of Church area off the road, extend the car park and re tarmac.
- 6 To build a disabled/men's/ladies toilet at foot of tower.
- 7 To build a kitchenette with stainless steel fittings and serving hatch into Church.
- 8 To build quiet room.
- 9 To strip out pews and level floor, re carpet and provide good quality linkable wooden/fabric chairs, arranged with centre aisle.
- 10 To replace heating with central heating.
- 11 Replace lighting.
- 12 Replace audio system and incorporate screens.

- 13 Remove pulpit and replace with hexagon shaped raised wood floor and modern lectern.
- 14 Move organ to it's original place.
- 15 To have choir chairs where organ is currently.
- 16 To move Cross from Christ Church and reposition at Olton.

Additionally replace kitchen fittings with stainless steel units, replace roof between halls and scout hut.

Do all other items within surveyors report not included.

I am well aware that I am talking costs of between £800,000 and £1,000,000 that is why the sale of the other two properties is imperative.

The only items that would have to be cleared by planning are the car park and removal of the porch.

These plans are not complete or set in stone, they are merely suggestions and it should be made possible to have rough plans drawn up for all members to view and give opinions on within a given time frame.

I do also believe a separate small committee should be formed to make plans as to how we can take forward the growth of our Church it's people and community service for the future.

### **CAROL ANDREWS - thoughts on 'A Way Forward'**

'So what does Carol think of Mark's master plan for our three churches?', you may be wondering. Well firstly I am not completely against it as Mark knows – far from it. I especially like the idea of sharing our church at Hobs with the Presbyterians. I already know that this has gone down well with some of the 'oldies' at Hobs who think they may go to the P's services on Sundays and our services mid week. Bless them why not? I'm happy for them and I'm sure God is too.

Well done Mark for coming up with lots of creative ideas. You have touches of genius! However as you may all guess, there are some 'But's from me. Needless to say it is Olton that is the problem. Like Mark I would like to see this become a community centre with church facility. Our Olton church is in the heart of a vibrant community with many children. It has been their unofficial community centre for years – and there is nowhere else in Olton that one could be built as a replacement. St Margaret's church hall is heavily booked like ours – but we have 4 rooms to their single one. So ours logically has the heaviest bookings.

There are 4 schools in Kineton Green Rd and one in adjacent St Bernard's Rd. Our church halls provide the before and after school 'wrap around' kids club for Kineton Green Primary School. The school is a one form entry school, originally designed as an Infant School with three classes. They now have 7 classes and they do not have a large amount of land to build a place for a 'wrap around' service for working parents. The present playground is woefully small as they've already had to build extra classrooms. Add to this it is much nicer for the kids to just come through their special gate to our church halls. Our halls provide a 'home away from home' for them. None of us would want our children to stay in school from 8.0am until 5 or 6.0pm? As Christians our outreach to the Olton community would be poor if we force them to go elsewhere.

Kineton Green School kids are not the only ones who use our church halls at Olton 5 days a week. You should see the numbers at Pre School. I peeped in the other day and was amazed to see how Pre School has grown. The big hall seemed full of these small children – all buzzing around playing happily.

Then there are the mothers and toddlers on Mondays – the Baptist group. Their 'Branch' house on the Warwick Rd would be a poor substitute for our halls for them. Obviously they would have been using their building long ago if this were not so. And of course there are the uniformed organisations – which you all know about. We need to support them. I've suggested to Mark that maybe we could use our Olton church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month so we can continue our Christian outreach to them. They constitute by far the largest number of kids that we have in church services and we shouldn't just abandon them. What poor outreach that would be!

I could go on and on about the various users of the church halls – including the Alcoholics Anonymous group - but that is not the purpose of this letter. Suffice to say those halls are of great value to the community and as caring Christian folk we need to be aware of this.

It seems logical to me that the Charities commission may well say, 'Sell Olton if you are not using it regularly'. Any business mind would say the same. But our minds are Christian and we try not to be influenced finances – though we have to be realistic about money. So, talking of which, where are we going to get the finances to do necessary alterations to Christ Church and build a replacement hall for Hobs? That hall is well past its 'sell by' date and, like Olton, it is used frequently by the local community. For Hobs we may get a grant – I hope so. I'm not sure about CC. Others doubtless know better than me about that. What a good thing we can use our collective minds – and God's of course, the best of all.

And where are we going to get the finances to restore Olton for community and church usage? I doubt grants will cover all the money needed. If we are lucky enough to get grants and sponsorship for our church at Olton, what will the public and sponsors think of us if we then sell the building? This would be poor PR let alone outreach!



My answer to Olton remains this. Find a young vibrant church family as a partner to help us in our outreach endeavours – and the same goes for our other churches. We simply cannot do outreach alone. God is saying ‘Jubilee’ very clearly to me for Olton? I wonder if he is saying the same to Mark, to you – and to Jubilee Church? With Jubilee Church as a partner we could probably still have third Sunday in the month services at Olton. We would just swap churches for morning service and they are used to CC. This is much better than vague promises of occasional services for the Olton folk who are sad that they may lose their place of worship.

Does it strike you that God sends messages to us to put together like a jig-saw? None of us has all the answers – or pieces of the jig-saw. There are so many aspects of our church buildings we need to consider and the journey forward is far from obvious. We can but hope and pray. But we do need to make good effective use of those two hopeful MP’s before the election. There is no better time than now to rope them in!

### **JILL HUGHES - God’s plan for SURC?**

It starts with prayer from the Jubilee Church. They have been asking God for his help and His guidance to show them a place where they can worship, and at a time suits their congregation.

They were led to Christ Church where they have been meeting for some time now I understand, but it is not quite perfect for them as the timing is not suitable.

God is very aware of the problems that are starting to be felt by Hobs Moat, Christ Church and Olton Urcs’s. The ageing congregation is getting less, and two of the buildings are getting older and need more money spending on them than the older congregation can afford.

God has thrown us a lifeline. He has encouraged us to become one Church. In functioning as one we will be able to go forward in strength and in numbers.

All three Churches have their own ‘mission’, which is already happening and which should and surely can, continue wherever we worship.

Christ Church can and does accommodate the Jubilee Church, they do not want a building, but are happy to pay rent to the URC to use CC.

In accepting this, which is surely God’s answer to their prayers, money is generated for the SURC to go forward too.

All of the groups at CC can continue, the generations project, SCAH, job club, Union theatre and the others too, there is no need for these to stop, but now with a bigger URC congregation there will be more support if needed.

Olton URC needs money spending on it, but with the combined finances from the three churches and the income from all of the lettings (including Jubilee), this will be possible.

There is another ‘story’ that has been running alongside the union of the three churches and that is Neil. Neil was sent to us to start this process and his enthusiasm, was what got us ‘going’ in the first place.

We don’t not know what God’s plan for Neil is yet, but surely there is one. It seems to me, although we don’t know for certain, that something in Neil’s past has caught up with him, and he is going to have to leave us and move on to what God is calling him to do in another place.

If this is what is happening then the manse will soon be empty. I do not know what will happen to this, but surely it will be sold, and as we need money to help with development and changes of Olton to bring it up to the standard we need, surely Synod would let us use the money for this purpose

Do we need to worry about having a manse, as Mark has his own house and when Mark leaves and we need to call a new Minister, then the CC flat will be becoming vacant – a perfect place for a new Minister.

Thinking of those in SURC who are frailer and ageing congregation who are finding all this very difficult – the timing of our service at present. There is provision for them in this proposal.

1 – We let Jubilee use CC on a Sunday morning.

2- We use Olton for our regular Sunday worship.

3 – We have an afternoon (not evening as the folk this would serve in general do not want to be out late or in the dark) service for those who struggle to come at 10am. This should be a short gentle time of prayer and singing and monthly communion, much like what I imagine is happening in the care homes by Mark at present.

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In the above proposal, all of the buildings are kept, used and maintained.

The aged and the frail are catered for.

All of the groups that use any of the 3 churches can remain and carry on their businesses.

We maintain our presence in all three communities.

We keep Mark in full time employment until his retirement.

We can still carry out our mission whatever we choose that to be.

We have a successful Church will be attractive for a new Minister when we need to call one

CYNTHIA PARKER

points about our church buildings.

Christ Church.

Points 1 - 8 below mean it would not be an attractive venue for a coffee shop to enhance outreach.

These points are also relevant to church use with the exception of number 3.

1. Wrong side of the Warwick Rd.
2. Older people will not cross road.
3. Young people like Starbucks or Costa.
4. Other ideas for mission can be carried out anywhere.
5. Parking very restricted. For elderly folk it is a long way to walk from Morrisons/Solihull Sch'
6. No drop off on busy road.
7. No neighbourhood houses.
8. Unattractive for older people to come to Solihull centre at night.
9. Church is too big for declining membership - especially to heat.
10. Needs a lot of money spending on it - from where?
11. Most attractive to sell in such a prime position.

Olton

1. In residential area.
2. Great community asset.
3. Links with neighbourhood societies.
4. Links with adjacent primary school.
5. Uniformed organisations active.
6. Largest congregation - church cosier.
7. No problems parking in the surrounding area and good drop off at entrance.
8. Many who walk to church.
9. Mission can be done here - outreach on the doorstep with local community.
10. Logistics of transferring the greatest number of people to another place sounds silly.

Hobs Moat.

1. Small and intimate.
2. Cheap to run.
3. No real parking difficulties.
4. Not appealing as a church building.
5. Age of congregation means it is difficult to put out chairs for Sunday worship.
6. Heaters need protecting to prevent people sitting nearby from burning themselves.
7. Excellent community work as surrounded by OAP houses therefore more retired folk.
8. Should be kept as asset to the community.