

St. Andrew's Church, Countesthorpe

Building for the Future



The Bridge Project -

Bringing People Together

The Challenge

As the Church of England Parish Church in our village, St Andrew's has been serving this community for generations.

You may well know us through christenings or weddings, funerals or thanksgivings, our Service of Light, our care for the lonely, housebound or sick; our schools work, Messy Church, holiday clubs and workshops for children, Just Treats, special activities for older people, the weekly drop-in for village young people, the Rainbow Shop, involvement in the Countesthorpe Food Bank and much more besides.

This is all part of our life as a worshipping Christian Community who take our faith seriously and who, along with other denominations, take the call to be a real Christian presence in our village seriously too.



Building the Vision

We are a lively and growing church and our premises are a buzzing hub -sometimes we are bursting at the seams, as at MESSY CHURCH! The population of Countesthorpe has increased rapidly in recent years and we are outgrowing our current buildings to the point where they are restricting what we can do to serve the community. Our only toilet facilities are currently in the Cornerstone Building, some distance from the church, and even these are not available during the daytime, so people coming to funerals or other weekday activities are unable to use them.

Some years ago God gave us the vision of extending our Main Street property (Rainbow Shop site), linking the church with that site with proper path and ramp, accessible toilets, kitchen facilities, meeting room and redeveloped garden.

The time has come to turn this vision into reality, to make sure the buildings are fit for purpose and will enable us to continue to serve the community throughout the 21st Century.



Messy Church

It's all about people....

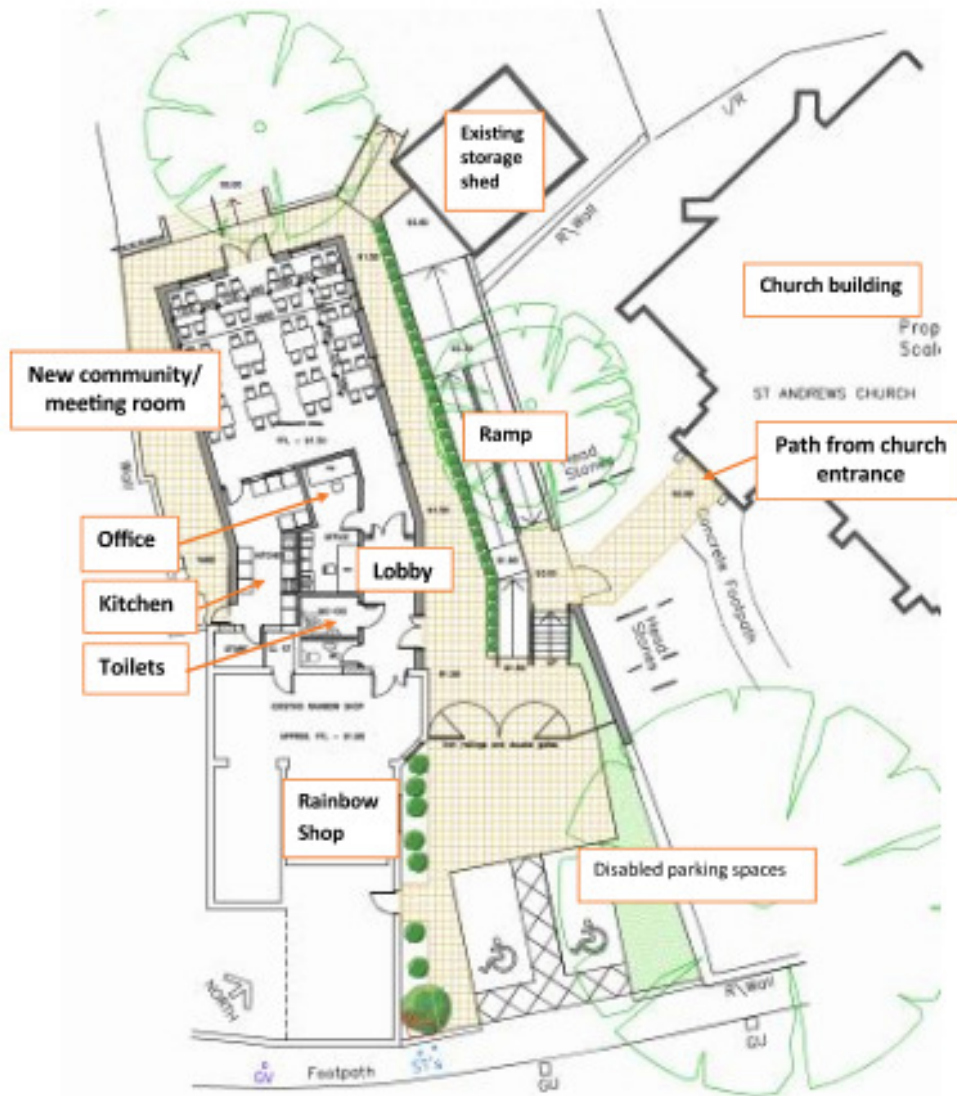
We aim to create a welcoming place, open and accessible to the whole community. We want our buildings to be places where people's lives are transformed - where the lonely can find friendship, where the broken can find healing, where people can meet to share both happy times and sad times.

The extension will include an entrance foyer with a new church office, modern toilet facilities, extra room for activities, groups and meetings, with purpose-built kitchen facilities for refreshments and catering. Moving the office will release more space in the Rainbow Shop, hopefully increasing sales so that more money can be sent to support the world's poorest communities. The garden will be redeveloped as a spiritual retreat space.

The additional facilities will enable us to develop our many current activities - e.g. Messy Church, bereavement support group, Men's breakfast, Friendship Club, craft group, youth drop-in - and also start new ones, such as community lunches, debt counselling, an Alzheimer's café, to mention just a few. We hope to be able to offer space in our buildings to other community groups who need somewhere to meet, too.



The Plans



How the work is being Funded

The cost of turning this vision into reality will be in the region of £210,000 including construction, fixtures, fittings, professional fees and VAT.

The Diocese of Leicester is being asked to help us with a grant and we will be applying for grants from grant-funding trusts.

Church members and others are continually making their own donations towards the work and numerous fund-raising events have taken place or are being planned.

We are convinced God is calling us as a church to this project - but we need the support of the whole community if the vision is to become a reality.

£230,000 might seem an impossible amount of money, so here are some examples of some different-sized 'bites' which would enable us to raise it:

Grant from Diocese of Leicester (already pledged) £52,000

Funds set aside by St Andrew's Church (pledged) £10,000

Grants from grant-making trusts (estimated) £20,000

Estimated donations by St Andrew's council members = £20,000

Outstanding amount to be raised:

50 donations of £1,000 = £50,000

100 donations of £500 = £50,000

100 donations of £200 = £20,000

80 donations of £100 = £ 8,000

TOTAL = £230,000

Find out more

Bridge Project Launch Day

On **Saturday 30th April**, the church will be open from 10 am - 4pm for you to come and see the plans and learn more about what we are planning to do. There will be **family activities** taking place throughout the day and **light refreshments** will be provided.

How you can help

There are many ways you can help:

- Make or pledge a one-off gift (remember we can claim back a further 25% of your donation through Gift Aid if you have paid enough tax within the last four years).
- Give regular monthly gifts (again, these can be gift aided)
- Offer an interest-free loan, to be repaid over a number of years
- Offer a practical skill that you are willing to auction to raise funds for the project
- Organise a fundraising activity with proceeds to the building fund
- Let us know if you have a contact in a local business who might be approached about supporting the project

Making the dream a reality

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure. We hope you will be as excited about this project as we are. Countesthorpe is growing and desperately needs more community facilities, and we hope that this project will enable us to offer space to community groups who need somewhere to meet, as well as enabling us to provide more activities for the village - for young people, for the elderly and for all those in between. This building will not only enable us to continue to serve the people of Countesthorpe now, but for many years to come.

Please do come along to our **Launch Day on Saturday 30th April** - you can drop in anytime **between 10am and 4 pm**. There will be refreshments and family activities taking place. The plans will be on display and there will be people around to explain more about the project.



The project already has the support of St Andrew's Church Council, The Diocese of Leicester, and Countesthorpe Parish Council, but **we need everyone's help** if we are to turn this dream into a reality. Details of how you can do that are on the previous page.

Please help us as much as you can. Thank you.

Revd David Hebblewhite
Priest-in-Charge of St Andrew's Church
and Area Dean of Guthlaxton Deanery

Stephen Dimmock & Malcolm Thompson
Churchwardens