

*"Here4Huntingdon" 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1878*



**HUNTINGDON METHODIST CHURCH'S  
PROJECT**

***HERE4HUNTINGDON***

***PHASE 3 - "THE NEW EXTENTION"***



***Phase 3  
launch  
10 June  
2018***



### ***What is the Here4Huntingdon Project?***

In May 2012 we launched the Here4Huntingdon (H4H) project to redevelop, extend and refurbish our premises, When completed it will enable us to continue to be a vital and growing Christian presence in our local Huntingdon community, as well as meeting the growing needs of our church family.

### ***Why is it taking so long ?***

We decided at the outset that the project would be delivered in 3 main phases to minimise the disruption to the existing life of the church, the groups who use our premises and our neighbours, and also to obtain the best value for money at each stage.

Phases 1 and 2 were successfully delivered by 2015 and paid for at a total cost of £297,751. Phase 1 included the re-roofing of the original church sanctuary and the rebuilding and restoration of part of the front façade. Phase 2 centred on the total redevelopment of the rear hall, ancillary rooms and toilets, including new heating, lighting, windows and floors.

It has taken much longer than we expected to get both the plans approved for Phase 3 and to resolve the difficulties raised by the new owners of Castle Hill House. Three builders then tendered for the work in Autumn 2017 but the cost proved to be too expensive and a revised scheme was then agreed and a new cost produced in December.

### ***Nothing has been said in church, so what is happening now ?***

At the open Church Meeting in March to which everyone was invited, it was unanimously agreed to accept the revised scheme which will cost £455,592. The H4H Project Team were then tasked to continue with raising the full amount required. So far we have raised £185,000 from different funding organisations and Church Council agreed that our church family should be encouraged to fully support the project and to help raise £50,000 towards the total cost.

### ***Our church looks to be quite old. Has there been a Methodist Church in Huntingdon for a long time ?***

Our church was built in 1878 so we celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October this year. (How about organising a party ?...just a thought !) And here are a few interesting facts .....

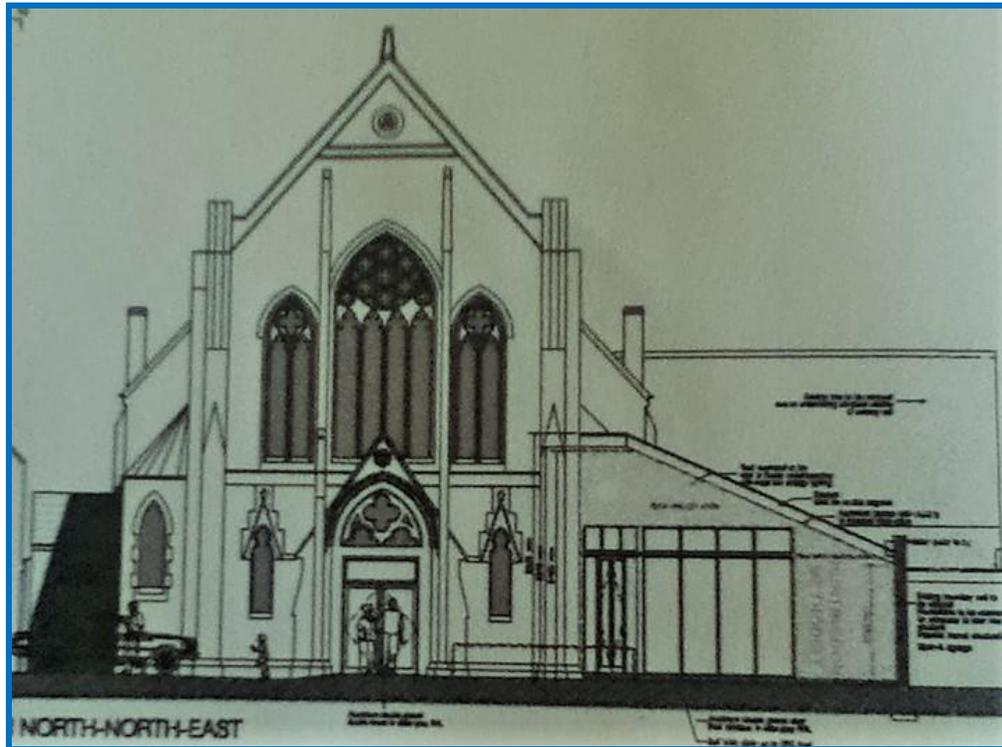
<b>1768</b>	<b>First Methodist service held in a barn at Duck End.</b>
<b>1774</b>	<b>John Wesley made his first of nine visits to the town. It is not recorded whether he just liked the local hospitality or whether he saw a need to try and convert the locals!</b>
<b>1779</b>	<b>The first Chapel (Meeting House), was built and the Methodist Conference made a grant of £20.</b>
<b>1806</b>	<b>The Sunday School (Junior Fellowship), was founded and attracted up to 300 children from the town.</b>
<b>1811</b>	<b>The first Chapel was built and opened on our current site</b>
<b>1877</b>	<b>The first Chapel was demolished because a larger one was needed. The seeds sown by Wesley 100 years earlier were finally started to grow and bear fruit!</b>
<b>1878</b>	<b>The new Chapel was started on 22nd May and completed on 18th October the same year. This may explain why it was discovered 100 years later that there were no foundations!</b>
<b>1878</b>	<b>The entire building cost £2350 and the organ a further £165.</b>
<b>1892</b>	<b>“Open Door” started in a reading room in the evenings. It only lasted for a year because the Stewards did not provide coal for the fire, paraffin for the lamps or tea to drink!</b>
<b>1900</b>	<b>A Church meeting started at 6.00pm and after a rambling discussion closed at 9.00pm with no decisions being made! Some things never change!</b>
<b>1928</b>	<b>Electricity was installed during the 50th Anniversary..</b>
<b>1959</b>	<b>The hall was renovated and the “Sunshine Room” built.</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>The major redevelopment of the sanctuary was completed at a cost of £186,000. The full amount was raised by 1995.</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>£60,000 was raised to provide a new kitchen and toilets.</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Here4Huntingdon Project launched. The rest, as they say “will be history” but it needs your enthusiasm and support to make sure it is a success.</b>

***Will our church look different from the outside and will there still be a carpark?***

Our architect has worked with us and Huntingdon District Council Planning and Conservation Officers to create a design which both meets the planning requirements and blends in with both the existing church and the conservation area in which we are situated.

So that we can maximise the new extension to create a new entrance lobby for both the existing sanctuary and the new lounge /refreshment areas, we will lose 2 car park spaces, but we are fortunate to have our own car park as well as conveniently placed town centre parking.

This design shows what the church will look like when viewed from the High Street with the new extension on the right hand side (west side).



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This means that we still need to raise another £220,000 and the Project Team is now actively seeking new funding sources so that we can commence the work as soon as possible, hopefully by Spring 2019.

***So what is included in the revised Phase 3 ?***

Phase 3 will provide major improvements to the current multi-purpose worship area (the sanctuary) and will build a new side extension on the spare land along the west side of the church. This includes;

- Redesigning the sanctuary to provide a new main entrance and reception area on the west side.
- Providing a new refreshment/ lounge to meet the growing needs of our daily outreach work into our local community through our Open Door and regular luncheon clubs.
- This lounge area will also create new opportunities for both the church and external charities and user groups to provide drop in facilities for the unemployed, lonely, elderly, single parent/carers, and after school events etc.
- Providing the option to create additional meeting rooms and storage facilities to meet the needs of both church groups and our external user groups.
- Extending the existing main kitchen to include more space and facilities so that we can service functions in both front and rear parts of our building at the same time.
- Upgrading of the existing toilets to ensure they are fully compliant for the disabled and baby changing.
- Installing a new heating and lighting system into the front premises including a new energy efficient boiler for the whole of the building.

***So how are we going to raise £50,000, and who is organising it ?***

We need to find willing volunteers to join a fundraising group which will have the task of;

- enthusing everyone in our church family to get involved in H4H.in whatever way they can.
- organising a regular programme of exciting fund raising events and ideas.
- publicising the events both within the church, circuit and our community.
- encouraging everyone to use their gifts and skills to help raise the £50,000 target.

***If I want to get involved in fundraising who should I speak to ?***

Have a chat to any of our H4H Project Team. That`s Paul Hornsby, Ken Walmsley, Leonore Charlton, Pauline Stowers, Peter Barlow and Robin Ward. The more of us who get involved, the sooner we will raise the money, and we will get to know each other a lot better !

***I don`t really want to get involved in fundraising but I would like to make a donation towards H4H Phase 3 What should I do ?***

Have a chat with one of our Project Team finance members. That`s Peter Barlow, Paul Hornsby or Robin Ward. And don`t forget that if you are a UK taxpayer you can gift aid any donation which will automatically increase it by 25%.

***I have some good ideas for fund raising , who should I tell ?***

We need a lot of good ideas both for our church family members to do on their own and to organise in groups, so the more ideas the better. Please tell any of our H4H Project Team.

***How much money have we raised so far and where has it all come from?***

Since our project started in 2012 we have raised over £500,000 !

Gibbs Charitable Trust	£1,000
All Churches Trust Ltd	£8,000
Hunter Rowe	£10,000
Brampton Church Land Charity	£500
Norwood and Newton Settlement	£20,000
Huntingdon Freeman`s Trust	£75,000
Methodist Church (National Connexion)	£120,000
Methodist Church (East Anglia District)	£50,000
Methodist Church (St Neots & Huntingdon Circuit)	£10,000
Woodford Community and Environmental Fund	£39,886
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)	£44,500
HMC Congregational fundraising from May 2012	£92,144
HMC Congregational fundraising prior to May 2012	£25,500
HMC Reserve Fund (front wall exceptional costs)	£11,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED TO DATE</b>	<b>£507,530</b>

***And where has it all been spent and how much more do we really need?***

Phase 1 and the emergency work on front fascade	£135,946
Phase 2	£163,480
Revised tender price for Phase 3	£456,000
Professional fees.	£21,840
<b>TOTAL H4H PROJECT COSTS PHASES 1,2,3</b>	<b>£791,266</b>
Total amount raised or pledged to date	£507,530
<b>PHASE 3 FUNDING SHORTFALL</b>	<b>£269,736**</b>

**\*\***There will be some extra costs such as the extention furniture /fittings and the sanctuary new flooring/decoration etc. This could be up to £14,000, but we have a built in Phase 3 contingency of £18,000 which could cover these amounts.