



St Mary Newton Flotman Growth Plan June 2017



Following our Growing for the Future Programme (May 2014) a number of task groups were formed to work under the supervision of the PCC to further refine the ideas, investigate which attract most support and carry the best ones forward. This Growth plan is based on the work of these groups.

DEVELOPMENTS TO CELEBRATE

Growing in Discipleship, Service and Numbers

- Contact and occasional attendance from a much larger circle of people including more children and people from local prospects home and Olive House
- Confirmations
- Much of our adult congregation involved in midweek cell groups.
- People have grown into new ministries - Authorised Worship Assistants, Reader, Warden, Children's Work, Outreach Worker, Project Director (Building)
- Hospitality and Welcome – especially growing ministry of Coffee Stop & Community Lunch
- Deepening links with the School eg Christian Character Committee, prayer spaces, Open the Book, etc
- A range of worship styles and appreciation of different spiritualities, including some styles of worship and learning made possible by new AV screen
- All permissions for development of the church building for community use have been achieved (after 2 years work)

FUTURE PLANS

Growing in Discipleship, Service and Numbers

Children and Young People

- Support Church Mice
- Develop and support Special Agents
- Further develop Cafe Church in the School

Older People

- **Continue to develop** pastoral visiting
- Care Home friends initiative
- Continue to develop community lunch and social club

Prayer

- Build on Prayer24-7 and Blessing Initiative with further similar events
- Stronger pattern of morning prayer in church

Village Vending Shop & Development of Community Space in Church

- Growing in giving and serving to raise funds to develop church building for wide community use. (See more detail below)

St Marys' Newton Flotman Community Hub Project.

Background

As a part of our parish development programme we developed an innovative concept, that we believe addresses a number of critical issues that impact the effectiveness of the the Christian mission of the rural church. Something we think that this has the potential to become a model solution for elsewhere.

Newton Flotman is a relatively deprived village in South Norfolk, but as a growing all age congregation of 30-40, on a normal Sunday, we want to serve our village better and to address the issues over having to maintain a heritage building.

Vision

Our vision can be found by scanning the 2D barcode or following this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZr0KCCvOsU> and watching the two minute video.



In the video we explain how we want to create a new warm welcoming community space at the back of the church, which can be used by everyone (see artists impression). Adjacent to this space, in the tower, we are going to have a village shop (installing a purpose built vending machine). This will serve the needs of a community which lost its shop 5 years ago. The facility will be staffed by volunteers at peak times (around school drop-off and pick-up times) and free tea and coffee will be served.

We needed to the services of an imaginative architect who could develop the necessary drawings, work with us to obtain faculty & planning permissions and help us to establish a proper set of costs. Last year Maurice & Hilda Laing gave us £8500 and along with other funds we were able to take on the services of the excellent JBKS Architects, based in Oxfordshire. We now have a full set of drawings, specifications and costs. Faculty and planning permissions have been obtained.

Newton Flotman Facts

- Population: 1500
- 19% social housing
- 22% lone parent households
- 15% of over 60s receiving the guaranteed part of the pension credit
- 11% of children in poverty
- "Who Cares?" survey: 10% of adults responding to the open question, "What Hurts the Most?" answered; loneliness
- No shop or pub - you need to get in a bus or car to get to one.
- Nowhere to meet during the day.
- A church that has grown over the last decade and wants to reach out to it's community.
- The building is next door to the village school and the A140 Norwich - Ipswich road.

Evidence of need

We surveyed the village.

- 63% said they would use the a village shop vending machine based at the church.
- This rose to 89% of those questioned at the school.



Lunch Club meeting in the church extension. Activities such as this could expand if we had more room

The plans are for a community space will be created under a new gallery, so it can be heated and separated off from the rest of the nave with folding glass doors. The gallery will also provide extra seating for busy special occasions.



Back of the church as it is now and a drawing from JBKS Architects giving an impression of what it will look like in the future.

Additionally we are going to make our nave more usable, by installing underfloor heating, halving the number of pews and making those that remain moveable (complementing them with appropriately designed stackable chairs). The nave and community space will then be available to help us expand our over-subscribed lunch club (see photo) and our parent & toddler group which meet in a our small church room extension.

We would also like to make the space available for the rest of the community for events such as concerts, which is fully supported by the local ARTS theatre school.

In this way we seek to make the space work for both contemporary and traditional forms of worship and make it more available for quiet contemplation and prayer when the community space is open.

This builds on the work of the cell church Outreach Worker, Andy Cox, giving him and the local clergy an additional base in the community for their work as people visit our church building whether to shop, meet friends, attend events or worship God.

Next steps

We are now entering the fundraising element of the project. This has been made more difficult though the need to make urgent repairs, including replacing lead stolen in November lead and fitting a roof alarm. However we have 27% of the money we need raised or pledged and are actively fundraising through events, private donations and grant applications.

Budget Breakdown	
Repairs:	£108,000
New fixtures and fittings (mainly the vending machine)	£51,000
Re-ordering:	£246,000
TOTAL:	£405,000

For further information www.tasvalley.org