



a view inside one of the five main meeting rooms

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Helen Eccles, Pathfinder Leader

Pathfinder leader Helen Eccles writes

This might surprise you, but I happen to be particularly fond of our existing church hall! - And increasingly so as the possibility of knocking it down becomes a reality!!

It has felt like a second home for most of my life and is the scene of many significant 'moments' - memories and stages both in my own growth in faith, and in that of people I love. Sentimental as I am, and as much as the church hall building might mean to me personally, I have come to accept that we have reached that point in time - in history !! - when we need to replace our existing church hall with a new one.

Funnily enough, this is why I am SO excited about the new church hall! Where we have been 'making do' for some time with many of the rooms and facilities as they are, we now have the opportunity to build a new hall which can meet all of our current needs in a way that the present one is actually unable to. Not only this, but in designing a new building, we are also looking to the future and the next hundred years of ministry here in Hartford and Greenbank. Our aim is to build a facility which will be suitable for an enormous range of church events and activities as we proclaim Jesus to our parish.

My prayer is that in this new building many many people will be converted to, nurtured in, and disciplined for Christ - just as I was in the existing one. We know that God's heart is for the lost and that He rejoices over every sinner who repents. God doesn't need us to build a new building for Him - He doesn't need a building at all! But let's pray that our new church hall might be the scene of many 'significant moments' - points of conversion and stages of growth in faith for us, those we love, and in the hearts of people we've never even met.

Our Youth Minister Roger Fawcett writes

“Feel the rain on your skin” sang Natasha Bedingfield in 2005. And if you stand in various places in either the old hall or the church lounge you will feel it. If it is raining outside that is. There is no doubt that we need some change to the current situation in the Church Hall before it becomes unusable. But building a new hall will not merely be a straight replacement. The potential will be there for much more to happen.

We will be able to do everything we already do, but also we will be able to improve on everything we do in a building far superior to the current one.

We want to be able to provide a range of activities that help all the different age groups move from never having set foot in a church to being regular members of a group. Along the way there will be plenty of opportunities to hear the gospel and, we hope and pray, to come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

With a new hall we will be able to do many more of these things.

We will run after school clubs for infants and juniors.

It will be a fantastic base for our holiday clubs.

We will do regular outreach evenings for teenagers.

It will be ideal for occasional events like concerts and shows.

We can run conferences and conventions for older teenagers.

The new hall will be an ideal venue for courses of all kinds

It will also mean much more for everybody to do.

But then, that is the real excitement of ministering together!

