

Psalm 127:1: Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain

1 Peter 2:4-5: As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Lord,  
We thank you for the buildings entrusted to us,  
and we thank you for all who have sustained your work here  
over many years.  
We thank you that your love endures forever  
and for signs of your Kingdom in our community today.  
Enlarge our hearts with a love for others,  
stretch our minds with your practical wisdom,  
and grant us listening ears:  
that we may hear the unexpected,  
that we may know peace amidst the challenges,  
and that we may sense Jesus building us together.  
Lead us, heavenly Father,  
with the fullness of your Holy Spirit  
that our lives as well as our buildings  
may be welcoming to others  
flexible to your directing  
and witness to Jesus' love in all.  
Amen.

## Seeking God for the Buildings entrusted to us

The last six months have brought into focus a number of questions about our buildings - the Church, Hall and Cottage. The grant for work on the Cottage fell through, the Hall needs regular maintenance and keeping a watch on costs, the Festival and Open Gardens weekends have suggested benefits to more flexibility in Church.

It is important to wisely seek God for what we have been entrusted with. Hence the Church Council (PCC) have spent time thinking, praying, imagining and getting our architects advice.

We have considered a variety of visions for the future, yet we feel rather than coming up with one grand vision it is important to seek God together and think, pray and work towards one step at a time.

Prayer and sharing together are key as we seek to move forward and your thoughts and prayers are welcomed - please do speak to any member of the PCC.



## Church Ideas

Below are some possible ideas for enabling our church building to be more adaptable and welcoming, serving our vision of growing together, being a healing place of prayer, making disciples of all ages and walking in mission:

### Replace or Renew the Heating System



Replace pews in the nave with chairs and recarpet

### Replace wood entrance doors with glass doors

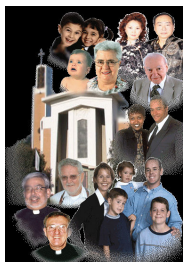
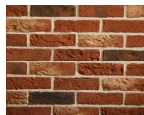


Re-order chancel, replacing choir stalls with chairs, removing upper rood screen and lowering reredos

Fit fixed projector screen, that can be moved out of the way, and new projector

Consider options to ease the step into the chancel, perhaps with forward Communion table

Fit clear glass into vestry to enable better participation in services for those with small children



Purchase some good, foldable and movable tables for special for special events

## Church Hall / Cottage

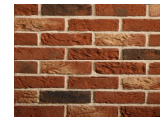
We have been considering the Church Hall separately from Cottage but have felt that it is important to consider them together. We have asked our architect for ideas as to how the buildings might be renewed or extended in the future, given their generally solid construction. Some immediate ideas are:

Update the main hall - with false ceiling and redecoration



Renew the heating system to improve service and reduce costs

Redecorate the outside of the Hall/Cottage



Consider how to unify the two buildings on the outside and inside

Tidy behind the Hall, perhaps moving the sheds and creating a hard play area

Of course, more extensive work could be undertaken to extend the Hall in order to better provide for the current users and encourage new users. How the Cottage links with the Hall would need to be considered.



These ideas are not set in stone! To move forward with these would require the support and involvement of many people - congregations, Hall users and wider community leaders.

In the first instance we are asking for the thoughts and prayers of all in St Helen's. We need to seek God together for His vision and leading and consider how we may help renew our buildings even as we allow Him to renew our lives.