

SUMMER 2023

Building Church

MODERNISING AND IMPROVING
OUR CHURCH BUILDING FOR
THE NEXT GENERATION OF MINISTRY

WE LONG TO BE A
spiritually, healthy &
relationally, connected
CHURCH
Confidently, transforming

OUR COMMUNITIES
WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF
Jesus.



A little history

40 years of trying

We have a wonderful church building and we want to make the most of it to enable as many as possible to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the past 40 years Christ Church has been seeking to improve and update the fabric of our church building. Various plans have been proposed and consulted on, but for a whole range of reasons, none of them have come to pass.

The result is that our main church building is now in desperate need of renovation:

- The building has very poor disability access.
- The heating system is 60 years old, has very little thermal control, and runs at only 65% efficiency (a modern boiler runs at over 90%).
- The single toilet has poor disability access and can only be accessed from outside the building during services.
- The carpet is falling apart.
- And, despite recent efforts to improve it, our space provision for our young families is very poor.

Alongside this, a significant number of smaller refurbishments, repairs and upgrades have been put on hold until a larger scheme of works is agreed. This includes external repairs, upgrades to the kitchenette, organ repairs/replacement, lighting upgrades (for control and energy efficiency), and sound system improvements.

Shaping a vision: 2019 to 2023

In spring and autumn of 2019, plans were developed and presented to the church family. After COVID-19 and the introduction of the Cross-over service pattern on Sunday mornings, fresh plans were developed and consulted on in January of this year.

Previous 2019 plans

Key features:

- 180 degree rotation of the seating within the church, back to its original design, to maximise our use of space at the west end, where the chancel, side chapel and organ currently are.
- New accessible entrance for all, through where the organ is currently housed.
- New toilet block, located off a newly created entrance lobby.



Church family feedback on these plans was very positive. The main concerns were about the cost involved. Finances and the changes to our Sunday morning service pattern prompted a re-think.

Previous 2022 plans

Key features:

- Retaining the existing orientation of seating.
- Addition of a toilet block at the back of the church building.
- A balcony above the toilet block to rehouse the AV desk and provide additional seating.
- A new Snug for children during the services at the front of the church in the current side chapel.
- A separate ramped entrance through the churchyard.



Church family feedback raised concerns with the practicalities of having the toilets inside the church building so close to the worship space. There were also questions about the location of the Snug at the front of church and at a distance from the toilets. In addition, the separate ramped entrance through the churchyard was felt to send the wrong message about church unity and equality.

The proposed way forward

Return to a vision-led approach

As our vision statement says, **we long to be a spiritually healthy and relationally connected church, confidently transforming our communities with the good news of Jesus.**

The Church Council have considered and prayed about the feedback on 2019 and 2022 plans. This has led to the conviction that the 2019 plans represent a much better fit with our vision, especially our desire to be more relationally connected as a church family. We expect that the reoriented church building will also allow more flexible use of our space, compared with the 2022 version, providing options for future generations to use according to their needs.

Revised 2019 plans

The 2019 plans have been revised to include a Snug space in the existing side chapel, towards the back of the reoriented interior. The original proposal of dormer windows and an extension to the side chapel have been removed to prioritise spending on aspects which better facilitate fellowship. Creating a new entrance would entail removing the organ, which is currently in need of repair; we are investigating replacing this with a high quality digital organ.

We have no firm costings at this stage but the estimated cost of these revised plans is approximately £3 million. This figure includes around £150k of routine repairs that are currently on hold along with fundraising to pay down the mortgage on one of our residential properties.

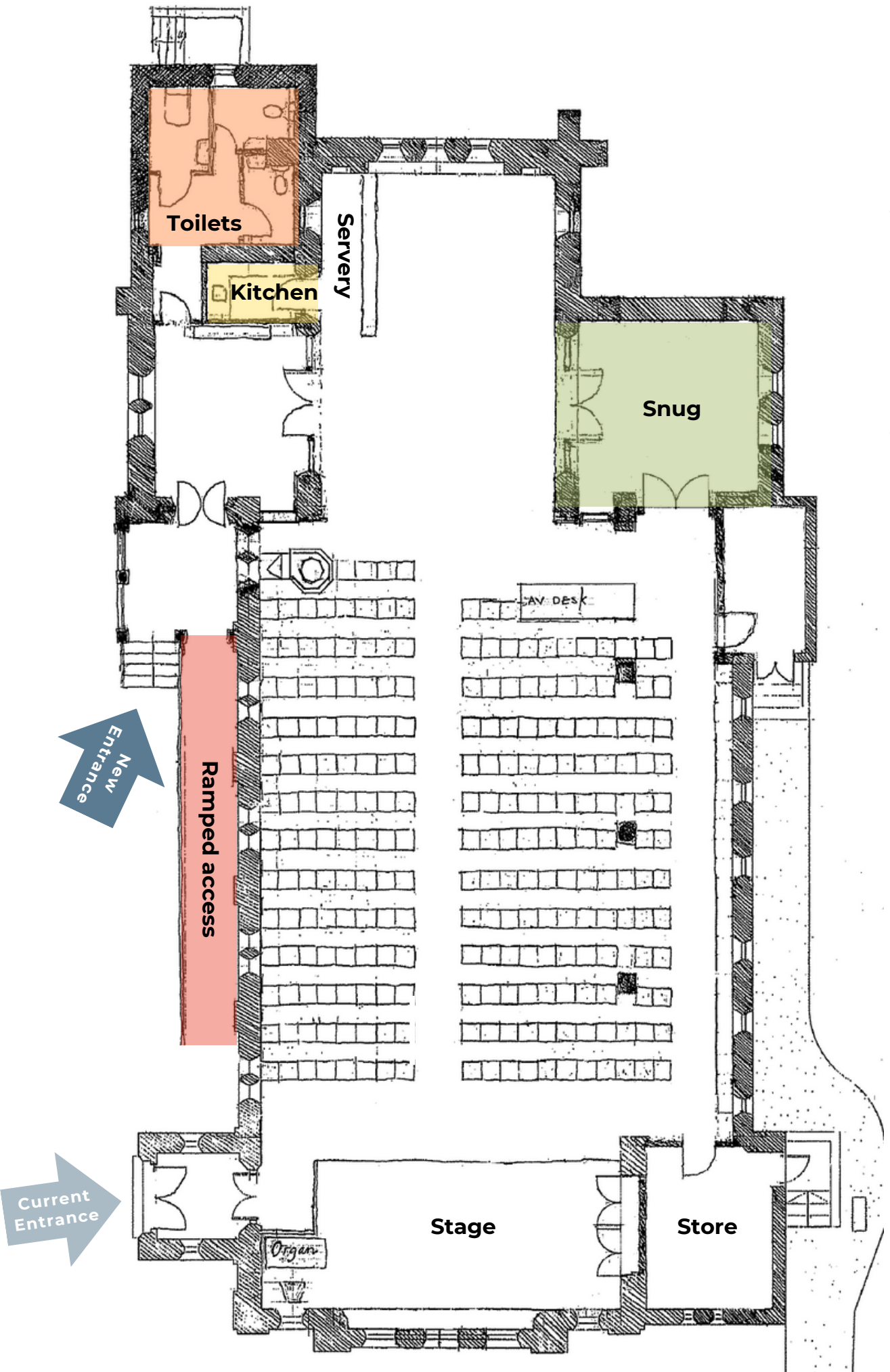
The finances are daunting and it may take us some time to raise through grants and church family giving. However, the Church Council are excited about these plans and believe that a slower build, which will better serve the vision of the church for generations to come is the right approach.

Your role

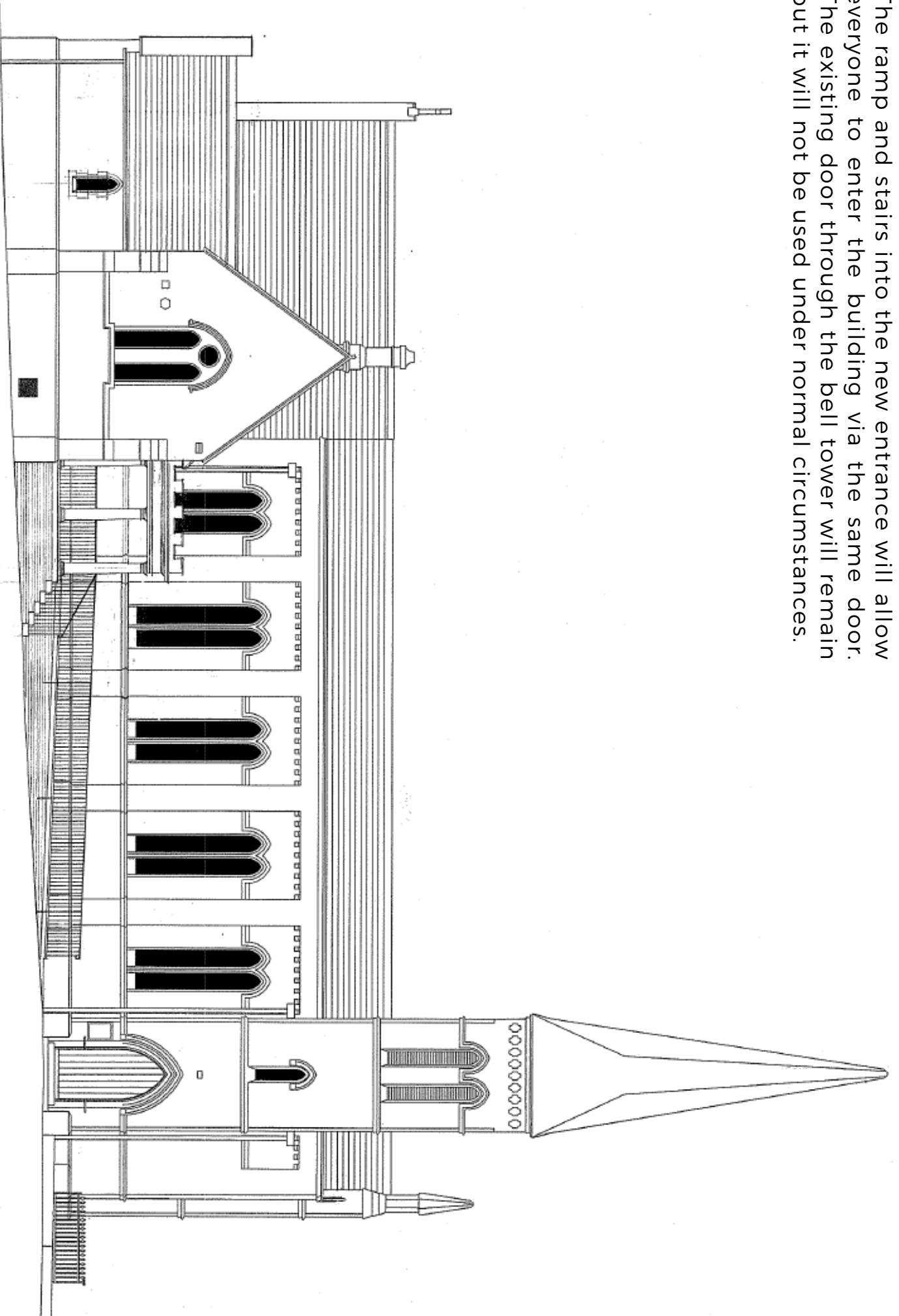
You are part of this church family and we need to hear from you. Please consider the revised plans as set out in the following pages and let us know your thoughts by filling out the short feedback questionnaire at the back of this booklet.

As we make big decisions as a church family, please pray that the Lord would be glorified in all that we do.

This is a draft plan looking down at the proposed layout from above. The new toilet extension is highlighted in orange with the kitchenette in yellow. The red section provides the ramped access to the new entrance area.



The ramp and stairs into the new entrance will allow everyone to enter the building via the same door. The existing door through the bell tower will remain but it will not be used under normal circumstances.



Your feedback

We recognise that this is a big and ambitious project, which will only succeed if the church family is fully behind it. For this reason your Church Council would love to hear your honest feedback.

Please feel free to ask any clarifying questions by emailing buildingchurch@cockfosters.church.

- Do you support, in principle, the Church Council proceeding with these plans to serve gospel ministry here into the future?

- Which aspect(s) of these proposals most excite you?

- Do you have any other comments or questions about the proposals?

Your name _____

There will be a church family brunch during Cross-over (10.15am) on Sunday 3rd September with a chance to hear more and ask questions.



"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"

1 Peter 2 v 4 - 5



Please return this form to the Church Office in Christ Church House, or by post to 1B Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, EN4 9JQ by **Sunday 3rd September at the latest.**

Alternatively, you can respond online:
<https://www.cockfosters.church/buildingchurch>