



Our Plans For 6 Manor Road

1. We need to be bold and trust God with our strategy for the short and medium term

The Standing Committee recently met to pray and consider God's plans for 6 Manor Road. They concluded that, after refurbishment, it gives us the space and opportunity for the following ministry possibilities:

- A permanent space set aside for a Prayer Room (instead of the existing one in the Lady Chapel) as well as a space for healing prayer.
- The provision of a soft space for counselling, pastoral care, and meeting people. There is a need for a comfortable environment where we, as a whole church, can offer hospitality. (The only other option currently available is the basement at St Philip's).
- A space for small support groups within the church to meet.
- For practicality, convert the upstairs into a flat for Youth Ministry.

The Standing Committee would like the refurbishment work to be completed by November 2011.

We know we are currently in a major phase of transition in our church; we know what we are but what we are to become is not yet known. Therefore, whatever plans we have for 6 Manor Road will be transitional, and not permanent.

2. The Purchase of 6 Manor Road was fundamental and vital

When the Birmingham Diocese decided to sell 6 Manor Road, we took the deliberate, strategic, and essential decision to move quickly and purchase the property to:

- buy control of our complete site

- avoid the land being sold for commercial residential development and, thereby, preserve our reputation in Dorridge and Bentley Heath.
- retain the option to use a proportion of the 6 Manor Road garden for the proposed new church building
- retain the ability to decide when, or if, the property should be sold
- retain the ability to decide when, or if, the property should be used for ministry and outreach

At the time there were possibilities of using 6 Manor Road for Sure Start, or even a new Doctors' Surgery, and these were pursued, but Sure Start has gone elsewhere and the surgery is looking to remain in the centre of the village.

However, after prayerful consideration, the Standing Committee feels that we should refurbish the building and use it for church ministry in the short to medium term.

It would be an option to fund any refurbishment out of the £40,000 of reserves that are available to the PCC to spend.

3. How Was The Money Raised?

It is important to remember that the purchase of 6 Manor Road was not for monetary gain and, while we must be wise in our expenditure, it must not become either our motivation, or a constraining criteria.

The total cost of purchasing 6 Manor Road was £715,000, £400,000 of which was raised from just 30 church families within two weeks, followed by an additional £115,000 from within the church over the following 2 months, and a loan from the Diocese of £200,000.

The loans from church members and the Birmingham Diocese, used to purchase 6 Manor Road, have to be repayed in 2011.