



CTK: BEYOND THESE WALLS
growing space, growing community, growing together

Our vision is to build deeper relationships and stronger communities that serve people more effectively by improving and extending our church building.

Name change for the project – but the vision remains the same

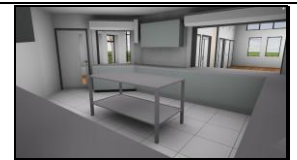
“Our vision is to build deeper relationships and stronger communities that serve people more effectively by improving and extending our church building. We will do this by creating more space for...”



Welcome and hospitality

Our understanding of the value of being together has been sharply focussed by being denied it for the last 2 years and our need to be visible, accessible, hospitable and welcoming is never diminished.

One of the key design-criteria for the annexe is that it serves both welcome and hospitality – allowing us to improve the visual and practical quality of our welcome, and making our hospitality easier and smoother for as many users of our site as possible.



Community

Lockdown forced many changes on us all and now we look forward as God continues to grow this part of His Kingdom here. Before the pandemic we had identified a need for more physical space to better accommodate groups who met here – groups such as the over-50s group, the youth groups, children’s groups, pre-school groups, Alpha groups, MishMash – the people who made up these groups haven’t gone away and many have re-established – even reinventing themselves - with a new sense of need, a new sense of wanting to be together, a new sense of community. And there will be new groups that we haven’t even thought of yet as God leads us forward.

And we must not spend so long looking after ourselves that we forget that God has set this church here in the middle of our **local community** –



At least another 4000 homes are planned for this part of Kettering – if just 1% of those became part of our CTK family that would mean another 40 households -

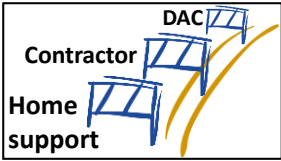
I’m reminded of the picture that was given to the church way back when we still met in a hut on Churchill Way that God’s plan for us was that we become – a “city on a hill” – a city speaks of visibility and community, and vibrancy and life. And more recently the call to push out beyond the walls of our building – which we’re already doing as we livestream services – but there are so many more non-virtual opportunities to engage with people beyond these walls just waiting to be seized by God’s people here.



God’s mission is something that we are called to engage in creatively. The extra space will feed that creativity as we look to our local community and find ways to reboot, reshape, revitalise, and refocus – or perhaps to reset, recall, re-engage, redeem our local community.



I believe that the annexe will be a key component of the ongoing mission of Ctk – God’s people here in Kettering.



So where are we with the project? There are still a number of hurdles.

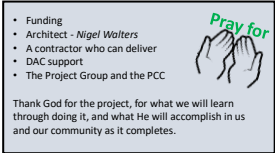
- **Re-capturing the vision** for ourselves
- **Contractor** – MMC changed focus – some re-design – mostly of internal and structures -
- **Diocesan Advisory Committee** – still to be convinced – not of the need, but our proposed solution will eventually have to gain their approval



Funding
We don’t know yet what the final cost will be so I can’t tell you how big the funding gap is. I could hazard a guess but that’s all it will be.

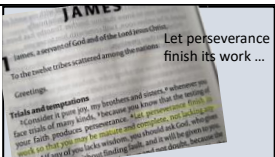
I do know that we have just over £500000 in the fund and that will not be enough. Thank you to all those who have continued to give to support this project. Keep your eyes out for fund-raising events and other opportunities to give money to support this project. We plan to re-start the funding push in September 2022.

The big challenge facing us now is to our faith as God’s people. Once we have a contractor on board and revised designs in place, detailed cost estimates supplied, and the DAC is behind us, if we still don’t have the full amount we need in the bank – what should we do? At what point do we step out in faith, start the project and trust that God will provide the necessary funds to allow us to see the project through? At what point do we “step out of the boat”? I leave that for your prayers because it’s a decision we will have to make – hopefully sooner than later.

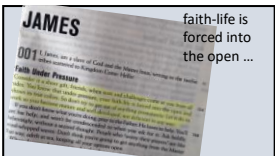


Please don’t stop praying for CTK: BEYOND THESE WALLS. Please don’t stop believing in it. Please don’t stop trusting God to help us to deliver it. Please don’t stop supporting it.

God uses challenges like this to help us to grow our trust in him.



God never gives up on us. We are encouraged in so many aspects of our Christian lives to persevere because in the end it’s not just about us, it’s about demonstrating the faithfulness of God



As the Message Bible puts it our “faith-life is forced into the open” where all can see – where all will see that our God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Eph 3:20-21

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