

Design Summary

SAINT CHAD'S, CHADWELL HEATH



Christ, inside and out...

What are the problems with the existing building?

- 1. The Church building gives off the wrong message:** The entrance is hidden around the side in the deep shadow of too many lime trees. It appears closed and tired. There is no indication that the church is alive.
- 2. Connections between parts of the building are complex:** Once inside the church it is cosy and welcoming. However, it is not clear where the toilets are, or how to get to the hall or other facilities.
- 3. The worship space:** This is in a furniture arrangement for early 20th Century traditional worship, in rows of pews, looking towards a chancel. Now with a worship band and a contemporary service, the worship space does not work properly. It all feels very tired, and is inflexible for the needs of the church.
- 4. The hall:** This minimal building is well used for many functions. It is a weekday pre-school as well as a Sunday space for children's church groups. It is also hired out for community use. There is almost no connection between the hall and the church. The hall is ageing and insufficient for the current needs, let alone those of the future.

What is the solution?

- Update the church entrance to the church with a bright new foyer - with toilets and a kitchenette - which is welcoming to look at and inviting to enter. The church can be seen through glass doors. Underfloor heating will be installed for economical warmth in the cold months.
- Reorder the church with a flat floor and a bigger dais so that chairs for flexible seating can be arranged in a friendly arc, and where there is plenty of room for a contemporary worship band.
- Re-build the hall as a new building behind the church so that both are conveniently connected to each other and big enough to accommodate the pre-school and all the other church groups and community activities
- On the site of the hall, build a block of flats to provide much-needed housing and to raise funds for the church and hall proposals - use the entrance allows for easy access into the
- Retain sufficient car parking.
- Use the new buildings to foster a better partnership with the community, to benefit both locality and congregation.



Ground floor proposal (top):

1. New main entrance, foyer and crèche space
2. Worship space
3. New sizeable semi-circular dais and chancel
4. Kitchen to serve foyer and worship space
5. New male, female and disabled WCs
6. Vestry
7. Meeting/Prayer room
8. Office
9. Link to hall
10. Hall foyer
11. Meeting rooms
12. Hall
13. Stores
14. Cloakroom

First floor proposal (middle):

1. Foyer/Landing space
2. Meeting room
3. Kitchen
4. Hall
5. Stores
6. Disabled WC

Second floor proposal (bottom):

1. Foyer/Landing space
2. Youth room
3. Stores (all orange spaces)
4. Lift to first and ground floors
5. Meeting room

The flexibility of the floor plan is designed with the community in mind as well as the Church. It is really important to the Church that they are able to be a resource to the local community; inclusive of age and background. The pre-school has multi-use areas, and the varying sizes of meeting rooms allow for the church to be used by the community.

Site Plan

1. New lobby
2. Garden of remembrance
3. Shared garden
4. Dedicated pre-school garden
5. Car parking
6. Disabled car parking





The existing road elevation (above) and the proposed show how the lobby gives the church a presence on the street



Saint Chad's
 Saint Chad's Road
 Chadwell Heath
 Romford
 Essex
 RM6 6JB

Key: front cover elevation

1. New foyer and entrance
2. Glass doors looking through to worship space
3. Glass fronted building to offer a welcome
4. Thin down the tree planting to an appropriate scale
5. The existing building is still the dominant part
6. There is still access down the right-hand side to the hall behind

The proposed elevations are designed to be welcoming, allowing the passer-by to see what is happening inside the building. Plenty of glass is used in the front lobby extension to give clear views right through the coffee area, into the main worship space. At the rear of the site the extension has a pitched slate roof to mark it as separate from the church, while using the same design language to create continuity. The elevational treatment is human in scale and as such creates a user friendly external environment.

