

Our missional vision: The Growth of The Grove in Retford

A multi-purpose sacred space dedicated to God

a place that has known brokenness, healing and restoration
a flourishing, accessible and environmentally-friendly presence in Retford
that can be used every day of the week
for worship, learning and caring, service and sharing God's story.



A people called by God with a story to share

inspired by our heritage, grounded in the everyday, but looking to the future in hope
intentionally sharing and nurturing faith through worship and service to the local community and beyond
blessed with the gift of an historic, multi-purpose building - and using it to bless others
supported by Circuit, District and Connexional resources.

We have a plan to develop a broad range of activities at The Grove by 2024 including a varied pattern of worship for all ages; the provision of a hospitable space for many local groups; the development of partnerships with schools, community organisations and businesses; the setting up of a green space; engagement with art, culture and heritage; help for those exploring faith; support for local and national charities; and a commitment to work for climate justice.

What we need to do to make our property fit for this mission

Good news - the church members have just celebrated the reopening of the large sanctuary, following the repair and decoration of the ceiling, financed partially by the Government's Culture Recovery Fund. Other recent improvements made to the building include the repair of the drains and the roof, new toilets, and new floor coverings and lighting in the corridors. We have been grateful for District support for this work.

We are soon to undertake some high level masonry repairs identified in the quinquennial inspection and a scheme to develop the garden space for community use. The following project will then follow on (some steps overlap):

Step 1 – new front doors and repair of stonework around the doorway – required to reduce draughts/increase energy efficiency and safety.

Step 2 – installation of new heating system in the sanctuary and panels in the vestibule – to increase comfort, usability of the space and energy efficiency.

Step 3 – removal of nine pews (permission currently being sought), the releveling of the floor and the installation of an audio visual and streaming system. This work will provide a flexible space for informal worship and for multipurpose use of the church e.g. concerts, exhibitions, school/community celebrations. This step will also include the redecoration of the lower level of the church, the vestibule and the staircases, the re-carpeting and cushioning of the remaining pews.

Step 4 – new accessible community entrance to Chapelgate Hall and a new external door for the flat. This will increase accessibility and security.

Step 5 – securing funding for operational aspects of running a busy church building and a range of projects with schools and other groups identified through our consultation exercise.

The journey so far

We already make extensive use of the rest of our large suite of premises. The reopening of the sanctuary has generated a lot of interest in the community/social media. We aim to complete a church and community consultation exercise during September and are currently working on several grant applications to national and local trusts. We have sought advice from District Officers e.g. Sam Roberts and are networking through several local agencies e.g. North Notts BID, Transforming Notts Together, Bassetlaw Christian Heritage and Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group.

The estimated total cost

Estimated cost is at least £249,000 plus VAT (the majority of VAT will be claimed back through the Listed Places of Worship scheme). Through Church and Circuit Funds we currently have £115,632 towards this work.

Timeline – we hope to complete steps 1 and 2 before the end of this calendar year with steps 3-5 being finalised during 2022 – a year in which we are celebrating 200 years of worship on the site.