

Chesterfield Road Methodist Church

June 2024

The Church Council appointed a local architect to draw up plans for a smaller church and community centre on land already owned by the church and adjacent to the existing church building. The plans include: -

- demolishing the current building and rebuilding on adjacent land
- applying for outline planning permission for 6 semi-detached properties on the current site
- to then sell this portion of land to raise money to build the new church.

July 2024 The church council approved an application to the Methodist Connexion for a grant of £10000 for a feasibility study.

November 2024 Following a restructure of the Methodist Property Division, a reply to our application was received with an offer for a representative of the Methodist Connexion to meet with us to discuss our proposal.

January 2025 A meeting was held with The Methodist Connexion at which we were asked to consider a bigger and bolder project! Namely

- to build a new church and community building on the adjacent parcel of land as already proposed
- to consider building a number of apartments on the site of the existing church, which would then be leased to a care provider through a housing association. These apartments would be for the benefit of people who required specialist supported housing assistance.

The benefits of this scheme would be:-

- the land would be retained as an asset,
- any rental income would provide much needed funds for the Circuit.
- the apartments would provide much needed housing stock in our community, which feeds into “our calling” to help serve the community and to help the most vulnerable in our society.

In return the Methodist Connexion would help us to

- Determine if this was a feasible project

If so,

- Negotiate on our behalf with all the interested parties (Notts County Council; a Care Provider who would provide 24/7 care for the residents; and a Housing Association who would lease the premises from the Methodist Church.
- Advise and help with all the necessary legal requirements and agreements.
- Ensure risks are mitigated and minimised.

AND A LOT MORE.....!!

It became apparent quite quickly that building the church would be a church project and the apartments would need to become a Circuit project. So Circuit representatives were co-opted onto our Church Planning Group.

December 2025 After a lot of work behind the scenes, ongoing consultations, meetings AND MUCH PRAYER, the church was in a position to apply for planning permission for:-

- A new church and community building
- 12 one bedroom apartments
- A staff area/room

January 2026 Planning Application validated by Mansfield District Council, with an agreed date of 22 April for a decision to be made

Consultations etc continue. MDC have a number of queries which need to be answered.

February 2026 Open Day for people in the neighbourhood to see the plans. Local and County Councillors were also invited.

March 2026 "A Season of Giving" launched. In order to be successful in applying to grant funders, the church council agreed that we should aim to raise at least a further £90000 over the next 12 months. (£210000 had already been raised over a long period of time. Some has already been spent on various professional fees). On the day, just over £33000 was raised. A PHENOMINAL EFFORT FROM A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE. WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE.

April 2026 Mansfield District Council asked for a 4 week extension on our Planning Application. The new date for a decision is 18 May.

In the meantime behind the scenes, good progress is being made on appointing a Care Provider. This has to be agreed with Notts County Council.

May 2026 We expect to receive a decision on our planning application by the end of the month.