



CONNECTED

November 2023 Update

Moving forward

Since the last Update at the end of September, we have gained a real sense that the project is making progress towards a start in 2024.

We reported last time that funds given and promised had reached 90% of a recently updated cost estimate. Encouraged by that news, the Church Council decided to ask those who have made pledges to turn them into cash — in one sum or more gradually. Letters to make that request have been prepared and will go out very soon.



Having faced setbacks caused by economic pressures, it is good to note that interest rates on our bank deposits are in our favour at present. Research on potential grants is also promising, and we are getting ready to apply. External donors are encouraged by strong local fundraising, so if you are someone who has been meaning to pledge, please [complete the form](#), knowing that even small gifts make a big difference.

The next important steps are to obtain planning permission from the local authority and a faculty (Church of England permission) from the diocese. We reported last time on a large meeting where members of the design team shared the plans with representatives from the diocese. The project was then discussed by a diocesan committee, who have provided constructive feedback. This is being considered by the building firm as they work towards a planning application.

The builders would ideally like to start work in the Summer, when the weather is more favourable. We are therefore planning accordingly, although we know that the permissions process may encounter delays. A great deal of thought is being given to the period when the Church Centre will be out of action. There will clearly be many challenges, but we are encouraged by some of the opportunities and solutions which are emerging as we plan. If you might have time or skills to offer to the Operations Director, either with project planning or with practical assistance, he would be very pleased to hear from you.

Above all, please go on praying for the way ahead. We are moving step by step, taking advice from those who have travelled a similar road. We are grateful for their help, but *'unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'* (Psalm 127: 1). The committee and all who are working on the project really value your prayers.



Please pray

The next online prayer **meeting** is at 9am on Saturday 9th December - Zoom codes in Trinity News.

Please **stay and pray** after morning worship on Sunday 3rd December.

To receive regular prompts for your prayers **at home** by email or WhatsApp, send a request to connected@htredhill.com, or contact the Church Office.



To communicate with the Connected Committee, please use the email address connected@htredhill.com or contact the Church Office.

Members are Cynthia Buchan, David Buchan, Lesley-Anne Clegg, Sarah Dyer, David Heppenstall, David Keiller, Tim Menary and Paul Taylor