

Discussion Resources For Church

This series of resources poses questions to prompt discussion amongst church members. It is intended to lead to a fresh understanding of the way in which the Church's buildings can serve the work of the Church.

This follows the book [“Making Property Serve Mission – Rethinking the Church's Buildings 21st-Century”](#) by Fred Batterton. This is a series of on-screen slides to accompany the following questions. Download the slides in PowerPoint (Windows) or Keynote (Mac).

5. What are our opportunities?

Questions and comments relate to the following slides:

3. Opportunity - A time or set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something
4. Decay is normal
5. Preservation - Decay is normal. Change is normal. Preservation (like taxidermy) is not normal but may be desirable in a few cases. Building maintenance is a responsibility.
6. Conservation is “The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate enhances its significance” according to Historic England.
7. Significance - Heritage value depends on Cultural Significance: Aesthetic - attractive, distinctive, style, Historic - architecture, art, events, achievement. Scientific - archeological .Social - community, landmark. Spiritual - belief system, knowledge. Each can be assessed High to Low. (Burra Charter)
8. Adapting Heritage churches - Churches need to make their own case for change. Careful change will allow: Aesthetic - retention of the basic aesthetic in street Historic - continuous use by original owner Scientific - structural volume retained Social - retains local community identity Spiritual - long term local belief system celebrated Otherwise failure to meet 21stC needs will lead to redundancy and likely greater change.
9. Why change? - Society has changed. People gather in different ways from when heritage churches were built. Music, visual aids, comfort expectations, lighting, sound, catering and alternative uses bring new challenges.
10. Location - Many heritage church buildings have prominent locations in city centres with people passing by. Heritage and contemporary side-by-side makes a powerful statement about the longevity of faith and its relevance to contemporary life. Use the heritage to speak of the message - interpret the history within.



11. Drivers for change - Flexibility of layout. Welcome & hospitality. Comfort expectations. AV needs. Sustainable multi-usage by church and others - any building used only 5% of the week will not pay its way.
12. New church opportunities - New building on a green or brownfield site. Meet another need, eg. sports facility. Adapt another building - industrial, etc. Take over a redundant church building.
13. New-build Issues - Car parking land requirement & cost. Opportunity for sharing? Engaging the wider community. Distinctive & sustainable - landmark? Involve an architect in selecting a site.
14. Enabling development - If you don't need all your property for future mission, realise some value to re-invest.
15. Next time: Who has the skills to help?

