



Artist's impression

The Parish of Heswall (St Peter's Church and The Church of the Good Shepherd) are very excited to be entering into the next phase of our Parish Building Project and to be able to share with you our vision and plans for the Lighthouse Church through Heswall Magazine.

We reached the decision to build a new church and community hall on Telegraph Road in the heart of Heswall to serve the community. We hope you can become part of this vision by praying for it and committing yourself to give your time, energy and money to enable these plans to come to fruition.

The present church and parish hall are no longer fit for purpose; their poor condition and structural problems make replacement a necessity. A new building will provide a wonderful opportunity for a renewed Christian presence and sense of community in the heart of Heswall. It will offer welcoming spaces for everyone where community life can flourish – the building will be alive with established and new activities. This is an ambitious and challenging project, especially in the current economic climate.

Our concept and design for the new church comprises integrated and flexible spaces that can be used interchangeably for a variety of church and community purposes including:

Worship: A large central space for church services with both traditional and modern worship, around which smaller rooms will allow for prayer, children's work or other meetings. Whether for small or large groups, this space can be readily adapted to enable the Singing Café, concerts, conferences, the Parish's extensive youth work or other community uses.

Café-style foyer: Seen through the church's spectacular glazed frontage, a relaxed café-style foyer and informal meeting areas will make evident our open-hearted invitation to the people of Heswall to join in with everything The Lighthouse Church has to offer. Service to the Community :- The hall and facilities will accommodate a wide range of activities:

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- Counselling, parenting, marriage and finance courses, etc.
- After-school activities, clubs, societies and volunteering
- Coffee mornings and social events
- Fitness, sports and well-being
- Concerts, performances and parties
- Toddler groups, children, youth work and activities for elders
- Meetings and conferences
- Charity events
- Farmers' market and so much more

A brief history: The Church of the Good Shepherd and Parish Hall, part of the Parish of Heswall, lie between Telegraph Road and Pye Road. When the current St Peter's Church was built in the lower village of Heswall in 1876, the Parish had a vision to reach out to the emerging town centre on Telegraph Road. To provide for the growing needs of church and community, a small mission room was built in 1891, followed by the current Parish Hall in 1926. The present Church of the Good Shepherd replaced the mission room in 1963. Over the intervening years, significant problems have arisen with both buildings so that they neither meet the present needs of the Parish nor our vision for the Church of the future. Our Parish Council has concluded that the most cost-effective solution, addressing the physical inadequacies and meeting our vision for the Parish, is to begin afresh with a new building. Conceived in partnership with Liverpool-based architects Shedkm, our design for The Lighthouse Church has developed through extensive consultation with the Parish, the Diocese of Chester, planning officers and Heswall community groups. Our proposal celebrates the vision of our Christian forebears but also looks forward with hope, embracing both the challenges and opportunities facing the Christian Church today. Looking to the future, the parish listened carefully to many voices but especially to those of its children and young people. From those conversations 'The Lighthouse Church' is our chosen name for the new building, reflecting a youthful and optimistic vision for Christ's Church in the years to come.

Opportunities for the future: The Lighthouse Church is designed as an accessible and energy-efficient building that offers flexible spaces for use by the church and wider community. Its adaptability allows for one-to-one meetings, small groups, and larger events for up to 300 people. The new building will enable us to further develop our Parish's extensive youth work and offer space for a wider range of activities for children, families, and people of all ages – whatever their individual needs

Supporting the Project: We estimate the cost of building The Lighthouse Church will be £1.6 to £1.8 million.

We are grateful to those who have already given money towards this project so that we start with £300,000 already set aside. Whilst some of the remaining cost may be covered by grants, the vast majority will come from money given by members of the Parish and local community.

To find out how you can help, pick up a brochure which includes further information and a pledge card from St Peter's Parish Centre or Heswall Library. More information from 0151 342 3471 or email office@heswallparish.co.uk

