

# DBC BUILDING PROJECT : “A VISION FOR DBC”

(April 2014 Version)

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## 1. TOP LEVEL VISION STATEMENT

"Our vision is for people to experience the love of God and hear his message for them"

"Our mission is to share God's news in a way which people can understand, encouraging them to know God better, become devoted followers of Jesus and serve others"

In view of our intention to re-build part or all of our premises, the DBC leadership team has developed a fuller version the above statements, describing a vision for DBC to be:

- A warm and friendly place where people feel welcomed and accepted, and feel they can belong
- A place where people hear the Gospel, have opportunity to respond to it, and are then encouraged to share it with others
- A place of worship where people meet God in prayer, deepening their relationship with him, and where they hear his Word for them, discovering how it applies to their daily lives
- A place characterised by love, where people of all ages and backgrounds are accepted, valued and cared for; a place of healing and restoration, where people can find trusted friends to share and pray with
- A place where people learn to become committed followers of Jesus, and are encouraged and equipped to serve God in every part of their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit
- A place from which people reach out to serve the local community and the wider world, meeting needs and working for justice

## 2. THE VISION AS IT RELATES TO OUR ACTIVITIES

One key reason for re-building is to house a growing congregation, demanding a bigger space especially for worship but also for other activities. We do not, ideally, want to lose any of the flexibility that we have now regarding use of the worship space, which makes it suitable for things such as:

- church meetings
- general children's and youth activities (eg Noah's Ark play area; YP sleeping area)
- Christmas "stage" productions
- Messy Church and Holiday Club activities
- cafe style events
- local community groups/clubs (as per our room hire policy)

Our primary calling from God is to make disciples of Jesus by bringing people to faith in Him. Key to our strategy for bringing this about are:

- Activities aimed at addressing needs and opportunities in our local community (especially where these match the gifts and aspirations of our members)
  - eg Noah's Ark, parenting courses
  - possible new items: money management courses, diet & fitness classes
- Church social events, to facilitate the making of new contacts
  - eg lunches/teas, big screen viewing
- Making our buildings available and suitable for (appropriate) community use
  - eg children's parties, band practices, fitness/dance classes
- Activities designed to introduce people to the Gospel
  - eg men's breakfasts, Alpha
- Inviting new people to our Sunday services

This strategy is greatly facilitated by having multi-use premises, including the worship space

The location of DBC lends itself to both noisy and quiet events

- peaceful retreats are something we should continue to cater for

The information presented above serves to emphasise the need for buildings that can accommodate a wide variety of activities

### 3. THE VISION AS IT RELATES TO THE NEW BUILDING

A first proposal to reconstruct the older, front half of our premises (see March 2012 version of this document) has been superseded by the proposal to redevelop the whole site

A single-story building is likely

- but not dismissing the possibility of a basement, second floor or mezzanine floor
- even a single storey building might provide roof space for extra storage

Creating a larger worship area is essential. We should retain as much flexibility as possible regarding use of this space, but with the primary aim of providing an appropriate location for Christian worship

- the worship area need not be made suitable for sports activities; we envisage carpeting or other recommended flooring suitable for worship
- for maximum flexibility we require lightweight and readily moveable/stackable chairs and tables, also convenient storage for them off the worship area

A doubling of floor space for the worship area is a preliminary target

- might allow max. seating to approach the 200 mark (vs 100 now) but also needed:
  - a well-defined “platform” area with ample space for musicians, drama etc, not cramped or interrupted by a passage-way
  - an optimally designed and positioned baptistery and audio visual facility

Storage space is important especially, as noted above, for chairs and tables. We must also retain storage for audio-visual equipment and Noah’s Ark equipment

As well as having a larger worship area the new building must, at minimum, retain all of the facilities in our existing premises

Ideally, we would further enhance these facilities, providing:

- an enlarged reception area
- more accessible kitchen facilities
- a prayer/quiet room, to be accessed from the worship space
- a crèche area that allows parents/carers in it to see and hear the service
- a church office, to house existing items plus a desk

Some compromises may be necessary here to make sure that we do not skimp on the primary aim of creating a sufficiently big worship area.

Other issues to be addressed as the building project develops include:

- attractive aspect for the frontage
- heating system & front door weather barrier
- eco friendly premises
- disability friendly premises

Attention also needs to be given to the surrounding grounds, including:

- increased (and properly surfaced) car parking space
- general improvement of graveyard and lawn areas