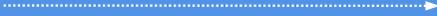


Our



Future



Vision

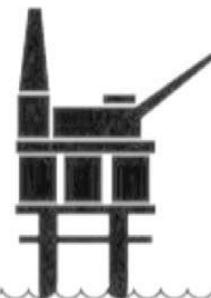


Our Story So Far

Trinity Church is nearly three years old. We started out together with very few of the structures which underpin and stabilise a church family. We had no property, no knowledge of annual income, a change in the make up of our leadership, and no denominational home.



As we look back on our first years we can be thankful for so much. The Lord has provided for all that we have needed. We received a gift to purchase a manse, we are able to finance the costs of our ministry, and we are now part of the International Presbyterian Church which is committed to passing on the gospel through evangelism, church planting and theological training. We have a Session, Church Council, and are resourced and supported by our church family through the Cruden Trust. The loss of a parish has not meant the loss of newcomers among us and we are a church family in good heart.



A church family with a focus on the Bible and evangelism.

We have seen first hand that we belong to a God who is lavish in his generosity and rich in his love and who delights to show himself like this to his children. As we stand on the threshold of a new adventure, we are committed to maintaining this same glad dependence on a God who knows the future we do not yet see. As we begin seeking funds for our own premises, our commitment to looking outwards will remain. This is clearly demonstrated in our church life. The Cruden Trust, for example, has recently significantly increased the annual budget allocation to mission work (now at 15% of the Trinity Church annual budget).

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done ... so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born” (Psalm 78:4, 6).

Future



Where Next From Here?

The Northern Hotel has been a wonderful temporary home for us. We enjoy a great relationship with the staff who serve us so well and the facilities have allowed us to continue essential aspects of ministry. But the Hotel remains a temporary home. We are only too aware of the limitations placed on us by not having 24/7 access to a building which we could use in many different ways for gospel work.

Why do we need a building?

Practical reasons:

- Freedom to meet at times outside services
- Use of buildings 24/7
- Enabling other activities (outreach, café etc.)
- Christmas services (not readily open to us)
- Permanent offices for our church
- Diversion of rental expenditure to ownership (currently nearly £25K pa)



A home for future generations of ministry and mission in this city.

Owning premises for gospel work is strategic on a bigger scale. The best reason for having our own building is not because of what we need now but because of how God works. We think about today; God is building for tomorrow. “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4).

God wants the next generation to have and hear the gospel. We may make do in temporary premises but what about those who follow us? We want to leave a home for future generations of ministry and mission in this city.

For every church building we’ve ever been in there were people in generations past who sacrificed. They provided a place for God’s people to gather, be fed and be equipped to serve each other, and witness to the world. Now it’s our turn to sacrifice for the good of the church family who will follow us. It is a time to think big and long-term. For this is the scale of God’s work: believers who give to new generations of believers we will never meet so that our God becomes their God and the God of their children after them.

Vision

“God’s story is never little. He works in generations, in lifetimes, and he wants us to do the same”.

Rachel Jankovic, *Fit to Burst*.



What Kind of Building?

The most important thing we are looking for is a building which allows us to keep being a church family with a focus on the Bible and evangelism. We will seek the kind of premises which allow us to keep doing this in faithful and creative ways.

Meeting in a Hotel from the very start has made us less traditional and we are willing to be flexible on the type of premises we own. The building may not look like a church building; at the same time, because we are focused on the future, we want to acquire premises that are built to last.

Although we do not have a parish, our current make up and history suggests that the northern half of the city would be the most sensible location. **We want to be part of a community we can serve and reach out to with the gospel and we want to provide a flexible space for the church family.** A brand new build in a more rural area is likely to only be considered if there will be significant urban development around it in the future.

	Essential	Desirable
Sanctuary	300 seats	No obscured views Expandable to allow for growth
Office space	4 persons	Separate offices
Children and Youth	3-4 rooms	Separate Hall and/or outside area Divisible spaces Sports facilities
Crèche	Comfortable, spacious	Sound-proof location; ability to see/hear the service
Catering	Kitchen for church family	Capacity for larger scale catering
Other	Disabled access Some car parking Toilets Low maintenance; energy efficient Flexible space	Ample car parking Showers Lounge/Library/Bookshop area Attractive façade

It is not possible to be specific about the detail of our future building. However, this table gives an indication of some of the considerations that the church family has already identified as important. We all need to recognise that although the precise form and location of our permanent church home is uncertain, the desire to serve God in this city will be at the heart of this endeavour.



How do we make it happen?

Discussions with other churches who have done what we are seeking to do, and with property agents, have established one major point: without money in the bank it will be almost impossible to take the necessary steps to acquire a building should one appear on the market. It seems wise to take these first steps in faith to develop as much capital as we can to enable us to move forward and begin exploring potential buildings or sites.

In September 2014 we will launch the building fund for the project, and the church family will have the opportunity to place our pledges in marked baskets. A pledge is a promise to give money to the project either immediately or in the future, and either as a one-off lump sum or regularly over a period of time. We are seeking gifts and pledges for a three year period as this will enable us to assess the level of financial commitment we might be able to make to a project. A pledge is not a legally binding contract, and you are able to review your pledge as and when your circumstances change, but we hope this will be a priority for our church family.

The only source of funds we can plan for is our own sacrificial giving. We may receive outside gifts or charitable donations but no other major sources should be presumed upon. This can seem daunting; yet it is not beyond us if we respond *together* out of God's goodness to us.

Giving for this project should be thought of as something extra above and beyond what we may already give to the Cruden Trust. It is *not* intended that we divert our normal monthly giving to the building fund, because the regular ministry of the church and Cruden Trust will continue. We should think of this as a major capital project like buying a car, extending our home, or paying for a holiday—these things do not replace our day to day expenses. Some of us may be able to give a large amount in one go but there is also great potential in smaller gifts repeated frequently. Your giving is an important commitment made in faith and in accordance with resources that the Lord has given you. Please pray and think seriously about your pledge.

Please read the notes on the enclosed Pledge Form and then complete your details as appropriate. If you are already giving to the Cruden Trust please don't simply increase your donations without completing the form. Even if already giving with Gift Aid please complete that section of the form. Written notification of your pledge will allow the Treasurer to keep track of donations to the building fund. The form invites each of us, in accordance with our financial situation, to commit to pledge specified amounts via our chosen method. Please sign the form and either place it in the basket at church or use the envelope provided to post it to the Treasurer.



TRINITY CHURCH

ABERDEEN

Building for the future



Artwork:
Aberdeen skyline: Michael Thomson
Photographs and design: David Muirhead